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Dormant Swiss bank accounts

The Swiss Bankers Association's statement, Pages 6-7

Rami Kleinstein tops the charts

Time Out

Take a voyage with an IDF submarine crew

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EU hopes to ease Golan vote flap

By JAY BUSHINSKY

European Union peace envoy Miguel Moratinos will visit Israel and Syria next week to try to put out the diplomatic fire ignited by the Knesset's preliminary vote in favor of making withdrawal from the Golan Heights contingent on a legislative majority of at least 80 votes.

Mordechai: Golan bill unnecessary, Page 3

The Spanish mediator hopes to mollify Syrian concerns by flying to Damascus after a preliminary round of discussions with Foreign Minister David Levy and other senior officials in Jerusalem early next week.

His tentative itinerary has him arriving here Sunday night, going to Syria on Tuesday, and stopping in Jordan on Thursday.

Levy is scheduled to be in Amman on Tuesday, a coincidence that could enable Moratinos to make discreet but direct contact with him from the Syrian capital.

Moratinos' spokesman, Christophe Famaud, said in a telephone interview from Paris: "It all depends on what he hears from the Israeli leadership."

See GOLAN, Page 16



Thousands of travelers stand stranded at Ben-Gurion Airport during yesterday's Histadrut strike against privatization. (Dan Ossendy/ethrael Sun)

One-day strike cripples economy PM, Peretz meet over dispute

By JUDY SEGEL, DAVID HARRIS, and news agencies

The nation's economy is due to return to normal this morning, after the Histadrut last night called off multiple strikes of state-owned companies that caused chaos in communications, transportation, and utilities.

The strike was called off before a late-night meeting in the Prime Minister's Office attended by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, and Histadrut chairman MK Amir Peretz.

"I very much hope this will be the last warning strike and we will be able to reach an agreement," Peretz said.

In the meeting, a draft formulated by Livnat and Netanyahu economics adviser Moshe Leon was to be discussed. The draft commits the government to ensure the rights of workers in state-owned companies due to be privatized, and obligates the unions not to interfere with the privatization process, Israel Radio reported.

Early in the day, a spokesman for Netanyahu said, "The

Histadrut is dragging the economy towards chaos. The strike is unnecessary and will not affect the government's intention of opening the economy to competition in various fields while protecting workers' rights," he said.

Perhaps most inconveniently by the sanctions were the thousands of passengers who jammed Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday, as striking Airports Authority employees halted all outgoing flights for almost 12 hours.

Airlines with morning flights tried to reschedule take-offs for before the strike started at 7:30 a.m. El Al spokesman Nachman Kleinman said airline employees had called over 4,000 passengers to advise them of the new flight times.

Meanwhile, passengers on arriving flights were told to leave the airport without their unloaded baggage and come back in a day or two, after the strike had ended. In one incident, arriving passengers, hearing a rumor that their bags were on the other side of a dividing wall, tried to break through and had to be restrained by police.

By 5 p.m., when airport officials slowly began to resume conducting

security checks and check-in procedures, the departure hall was totally blocked, with no room to move.

In two cases, however, strike officials made special arrangements in the event the strike continued. They ruled that whatever happened, the El Al flight carrying the members of the Australian contingent to the Maccabiah Games would be allowed to leave the country. They also ruled that a Lufthansa flight due to arrive last night, carrying bone marrow to be used in a transplant, would be allowed to land without hindrance.

After the airport strike was called off, about 6,000 passengers took off on some 40 flights between 7 p.m. and midnight; incoming travelers still had to wait to pick up suitcases left by striking baggage handlers. An additional 30 flights were to take off by this morning.

Earlier in the day, 8,000 Bezeq workers returned to work under court order after several days of sanctions, but their return was hardly felt. Tens of thousands of phone lines remained down in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and other areas.

See PERETZ, Page 16

Suspected Versace murderer kills self

MIAMI BEACH (AP) - Andrew Cunanan, the suspected serial killer who eluded a nationwide manhunt for nearly three months, shot himself to death in a house-boat just four kilometers from the spot where Gianni Versace was gunned down.

"Tonight, all across the nation, our citizens can stand down and breathe a sigh of relief. The nationwide manhunt for Andrew Philip Cunanan is over," Miami Beach police chief Richard Barreto said yesterday.

More than 100 policemen and FBI agents surrounded the floating, two-story home after a report of a gunshot coming from inside.

Police officers shouted, "Come out! Come out!" but the man believed hiding inside did not respond. Police then fired tear gas and six heavily armed officers, dressed in black flak jackets and armed with rifles and shields, rushed in - to find Cunanan's body.

The 27-year-old Cunanan shot to the top of the FBI's most wanted list as the prime suspect in the slayings of Versace and four other men in Minnesota, Illinois, and New Jersey.

Swiss list includes Nazis, war profiteers

By TOM TUGEND, MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

The names of a handful of war criminals and profiteers are interspersed with those of Nazi victims in the list of some 1,800 foreign dormant accounts released by Swiss banks on Wednesday.

The list, from 67 banks, appears to include the names of a Nazi art dealer, a Reichstag official, and the widow of an SS official who was executed by the Allies after his conviction at Nuremberg.

The list was made public this week, after more than a year of

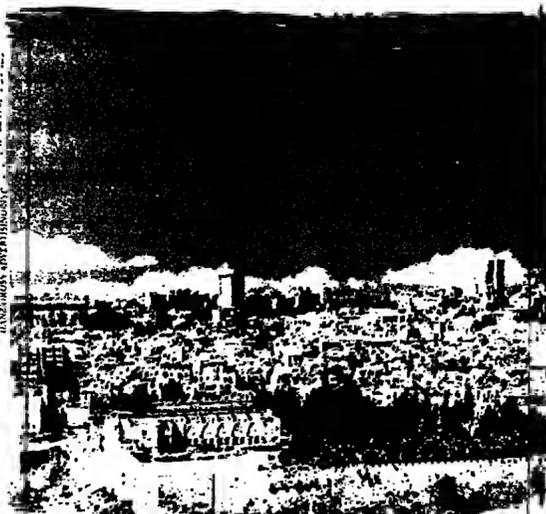
pressure by Jewish groups, to facilitate claims on dormant accounts. A second list - of the dormant

Swiss list anticlimactic, Page 22

accounts of Swiss nationals - is to be published in October.

Hans Wendland, who was a German art dealer in Paris during World War II, who helped the Nazis fence looted art, appears on the list.

See SWISS, Page 16



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NEWS

in brief

Jewish housing approved for Mount of Olives

The Jerusalem Municipality yesterday approved the construction of several dozen housing units for haredim in the heart of the Ras el-Amud section of the Mount of Olives, an Arab neighborhood. The permit was given at the request of American philanthropist Irving Moskowitz. *Itim*

Helicopter carrying Vilna'i shot at over West Bank

Gunfire was directed at an IAF helicopter carrying Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i as he flew over the Ariel area in the West Bank Wednesday night, but the army said the shots missed and no injury or damage was caused. The IDF Spokesman said there was known to be a number of weddings taking place in Arab villages in the vicinity and that the gunfire may have come from there, since shooting into the air is a tradition during festive occasions. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Court: Etzion can pray on Temple Mount

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court ruled yesterday that Yehuda Etzion, leader of the extremist Hai Vekayam group, could pray on the Temple Mount as of Sunday morning. However, Etzion, since last year barred from entering Jerusalem's Old City, must first post a NIS 10,000 bond, cannot wear a skullcap or prayer shawl, carry a prayer book, or have any other visible sign of being Jewish, and must pray in silence and alone, the court ruled. *AP*

Ze'evi slams Likud-Fatah youth meeting

Molelet leader Rehavam Ze'evi strongly condemned the meeting between Likud youth and Young Fatah representatives at the Likud's Tel Aviv headquarters, Metzudat Ze'evi. "One doesn't meet with murderers and the children of murderers, because it legitimizes them. How far has the Likud sunk that it has forgotten the principles of [Revisionist movement leader Ze'evi] Jabotinsky and the IZL from where it grew?" asked Ze'evi. *Liat Collins*

Terror victims' families meet Justice officials

Families of people recently killed in terrorist attacks demanded yesterday that the Justice Ministry enforce agreements with the Palestinian Authority about the extradition of terrorists to Israel. In a meeting with ministry officials organized by the Victims of Arab Terror Organization, Yoram Edri, whose soldier brother, Sharon, was murdered by a Hamas terror cell, slammed the process of turning over suspected murderers to the PA for trial. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Winning cards and numbers

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance drawing were the 10 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the Jack of diamonds, and the Jack of spades. The winning cards in the second Chance drawing were the 10 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the 7 of diamonds, and the 10 of clubs. In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 084173 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 869040 won the car. Tickets 583285, 406273, 806503, 663855, 839608, 407018, 175656, and 322281 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 69654, 88717, 33244, 68319, 93681, 54187, 43291, 36979, 76311, 98202, 67520, 02045, 07650, 88773, 08899, 14733, 96890, 43015, and 13818 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 636, 491, 511, and 835 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 22, 57, 76, 38 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 42 and 86 won NIS 20. And tickets ending in 1 or 7 won NIS 10.

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Mordechai raps PM on budget cut

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai took a rare public swipe at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday, saying the political deals he made during the recent coalition crisis were coming at the expense of the security of the state and that promises were meant to be kept. Mordechai, speaking for the first time since he boycotted the cabinet meeting which decided to cut NIS 205 million from this year's defense budget, said he will demand a "significant increase" in next year's defense budget. Mordechai had appeared to be sulking

since Tuesday's cabinet vote and sources in the Defense Ministry said he was angered that Netanyahu had pushed for the cut despite a promise that the defense budget was not to be decreased. Still, he denied he had any plans to quit the government. "I am the defense minister of this government and as long as I conclude that I am able to fulfill my role as a defense minister I will continue to serve in my position," Mordechai said. While not mentioning Netanyahu by name, Mordechai alluded to promises the prime minister made to him not to cut the

defense budget. "I don't want to go into interpersonal relationships," Mordechai said. "I serve a clear and unequivocal interest of a minister of defense whose task is to take care of the defense establishment alongside the other concerns of the state." "I am sorry that this government had to harm the defense budget, very sorry. This government had declared that it was going to strengthen security, and that meant, besides the numerous security and intelligence actions and building the army, that funds [were needed]. Without money you can't do anything," Mordechai said.

"I believe in promises that were given and I, for one, keep promises I make," Mordechai said. In a rare swipe at Netanyahu, Mordechai also criticized the funds allocated by the prime minister during the recent coalition crisis. "I am asking myself where these funds are going? The main question on the agenda today is where this money is going and if they are according to the correct priority. What agreements were there in the last crisis?"

See **MORDECHAI**, Page 14

Kleiner: Cut MKs' salaries to save budget

By **LIAT COLLINS**

At a meeting of a joint subcommittee of the Knesset Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense committees on the defense budget yesterday, MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher) came up with the least expected proposal: cut MKs' wages. The suggestion was not universally well received. Kleiner's proposal came after Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran said the ministry needs an additional NIS 1.5 billion for equipment and supplies. Members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee are also demanding additional funds, instead of cuts, and on Wednesday warned that a drop in the defense budget would have serious implications for

the country's readiness under threat. Kleiner, the coalition parties' coordinator on the Finance Committee, said: "It's clear that cuts need to be made in all ministries, because otherwise the economy will continue to be sick and it will be even more difficult to find funds for defense next year." "But we are ignoring one sector where cuts can be made. Like a sacred cow, nobody wants to cut from the salaries of the senior public sector. We take from the mentally retarded, the sick, the immigrants and children in need but only our wages - which are paid by the public - we don't touch!"

See **KLEINER**, Page 14

Group forms to repeal PM's direct election

By **MICHAL YUDELMAN**

Politicians from across the political spectrum gathered yesterday to announce the foundation of the Council for Parliamentary Democracy, a group whose purpose is to revoke the law for the direct election of prime minister. Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, MKs Shimon Peres, Yossi Beilin, Efraim Sneh, Moshe Shabal (Labor), Uzi Landau (Likud), Naomi Chazan (Meretz), and Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) attended the press conference. Other members of the council included former ministers Haim Zadok and Haim Corfu, and Dr. Yossi Olmert.

Council chairman and former minister Moshe Arens said the group's aim is to return to the previous parliamentary system. "The direct election law was forced upon us by a majority of one vote. It's a mongrel system, an experiment which, it is clear today, has failed," Arens said. "It has brought about the fragmentation of the Knesset, the weakening of the checks and balances, and is causing daily crises. And it's only the beginning. Things will get worse." Shamir said he had always been against the direct election law, but many others who had supported it have now realized their mistake.

See **GROUP**, Page 14



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat welcomes Labor Party leader Ehud Barak to the Palestinian side of the Erez checkpoint in Gaza yesterday. *Reuters*

Arafat to Barak: Still not time to renew talks

By **MICHAL YUDELMAN**

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday that the conditions for renewing talks with Israel are not yet ripe, despite American and Egyptian efforts. Arafat spoke at a meeting with Labor Party leader Ehud Barak on the Gaza side of the Erez checkpoint yesterday. The cordial, three-hour meeting, was attended by PA officials Saeb

Erekat, Jibril Rajoub, Mohammed Dahlan, Yasser Abed-Rabbo and others. Barak was accompanied by MKs Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and Yossi Katz, and his political adviser Dr. Alon Liel. Arafat said the recent talks - his own meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy in Brussels and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's with Nabil Shaath - failed to make any headway. He told Barak he is personally dealing with the investigation of

the Palestinian policemen whom Israel is accusing of involvement in terror activities. Asked about this after the meeting, however, Arafat challenged Israel to provide proof that Palestinian policemen and their chief were involved in terrorism. Arafat stated that he would "take care" of anyone who threatens security.

See **TALKS**, Page 14

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By **MICHAL YUDELMAN**

Every Israeli politician learns early you can never get too much publicity. Yet even these truly hardened parliamentary troopers seemed taken aback by the assault of journalists as they entered the news conference hall. Perhaps they thought that only the announcement of a national unity government could bring out such a media furore. But the formation of a Council for Parliamentary Democracy? It scarcely seemed like headline stuff. The journalists thought otherwise. "Why, it's the wolves lying down with the lambs," whispered an awed foreign correspondent.

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Novick document angers gov't

By **JAY BUSHINSKY**

A policy proposal said to have been submitted to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright by Shimon Peres' political adviser Nimrod Novick, has outraged senior government officials.

See **DOCUMENT**, Page 14

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IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Splitting signals

One of the main criticisms of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has been that no one — really knows where he stands. He says he wants to continue the peace process, but then does something — starts building Har Homa — that he knows will not exactly further matters. He says he wants to build the Jewish settlement in Hebron, but then does nothing to further actual construction.

Critics have jumped on Wednesday's raucous Knesset votes as a prime example of this inconsistency. On the two votes whether a special majority in the Knesset should be needed to approve territorial concessions on the Golan, the Interministerial Committee on Legislation — the committee that decides the government's stand on bills before the plenum — recommended voting against the bill. Then every minister in the plenum, including Netanyahu, ignored the committee and voted for the bill.

To add to the confusion, Netanyahu said yesterday that he hopes to change the bill that passed its preliminary reading so that a majority of 61, not 80, would be necessary to ratify territorial concessions on the Golan.

The vote, predictably, caused outrage in the Arab capitals. But, said Amatzia Baram, director of the Middle Eastern history department at Haifa University and considered an authority on Iraq and Syria, Assad understands full well that the vote is a preliminary vote that means little.

"He also heard what the foreign minister said [against the bill], and what Netanyahu himself said [about changing the number needed for a special majority]," said Baram. "He knows nothing will come of the bill."

But while Assad understands the intricacies of the Israeli parliamentary system, the Syrian public does not, Baram said. "They hear the news, and ask themselves why Assad is making peace with Netanyahu. It places Assad in an uncomfortable position domestically."

Moreover, Baram said, Assad will now be able to use this vote to score propaganda points in the world. "He will be able to present Syria as the country that is willing to sit down and talk, and Israel as the obstinate partner that is not willing to make any concessions for peace."

Baram said the inconsistency between the government's formal position and Netanyahu's own vote shows that he is split between what he realizes is the national interest — the need to sit and talk

with the Syrians about territorial concessions — and his inclination to appease the Right, to appear as a super-patriot, super-nationalist.

"He is constantly oscillating," Baram said, "between what he understands to be the nation's interest, and his desire not to appear soft."

But Hebrew University political science professor Avraham Diskin has a different interpretation. First of all, Diskin said, there was nothing parliamentarily wrong with what happened in the Knesset, and there are precedents for this type of "split" voting both in Israel and abroad. According to Diskin, the vote signaled to the world that the government is not formally in favor of the special majority law, but — from an ideological point of view — some of the individual ministers who make up the government are for it.

He said that on a number of occasions even David Ben-Gurion took up positions that were rejected by his own government. "The whole thing is symbolic," Diskin said, "because the bill has no chance of passing. The message to the Syrians is that, although the government is in favor of territorial compromise, they do not have all the time in the world."



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai chats with new recruits yesterday at the Tel Hashomer induction center. (Aloa Ron, '16/area)

80 percent of eligible inductees seek combat units

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

One year after the IDF was stunned by a severe drop in recruit motivation, hundreds of 18-year-olds have begun converging on induction centers as the annual summer draft gets under way.

The army said efforts taken since last August have led to a "significant" increase in motivation among Israeli youth to serve in combat units. For the next few weeks of summer, thousands of mothers and fathers, kid brothers and sisters, and girlfriends throughout the country will escort young men in an Israeli ritual that has repeated itself for nearly 50 years.

But this draft is the first for the high school class of '97, youth born after peace was made with Egypt and who came of age witnessing the signing of peace with Jordan, but incessant conflict on the northern border.

"I want to go to Golan. Only Golan," said Yossi Kaizer, from the Samaritan settlement of Elon Moreh. "I want to contribute as much as I can."

The army says it has witnessed an increase in the desire to serve in field units — a sign of increased motivation — since last summer, when recruits told Defense

Minister Yitzhak Mordechai they were too tired to serve. According to IDF statistics, four out of five soldiers eligible for combat duty want to serve in field units — a 6 percent rise from last November. It also said 85 percent were assigned to their preferred units.

Col. Avinoam Laufer, commander of the IDF induction center at Tel Hashomer, credited the improvement to a rejuvenated outreach program in high schools, where soldiers and officers speak to students about their units, as well as meetings with parents to allay their fears. He also said the tripling of the release bonus for combat soldiers from NIS 12,000 to NIS 36,000 helped attract youth.

"A year ago I wanted to be as far away from a combat unit as I could get," said Ronny Rozio from Bat Yam, who came to see a friend off yesterday and will be back next week to report for induction. "But the closer I got to my draft, the more I was exposed to the IDF, the more I realized that we need people like me going into combat units to protect the state."

The IDF holds three major drafts a year: December, April, and August. Those units recruiting now include the Paratroopers, Nafal,

Gotani, Givati, Border Police, Armor, Artillery, Combat Engineers, and Ami-Aircraft.

Amid the cropped-haired youth and parents, a haredi youth made his way yesterday to the induction center door. Mordechai stopped him and asked if he planned to join the army.

"I'll get drafted. It's a family tradition. My friends won't, but what can I do?" said the youth, who would only identify himself as Ze'ev from Bnei Brak.

In previous years, the number of recruits grew along with the general population. But this year's summer draft marks the first time in many years that the number of draftees will be smaller than before. This is mainly due to a demographic decline, but also with the fact that haredi youth now make up over 7 percent of those eligible for conscription.

Over 15 percent of those being drafted this summer, however, are immigrants. "The army is important. It will make it easier for me to find my way in life," said Vadim Levin, 18, from Ashdod.

At one point Mordechai approached a group of singing, T-shirt clad, students from the army preparatory yeshiva at Eli. "How many of you are going to combat units?" he asked. "All of us," they responded in unison.

"The whole yeshiva? Great. Keep up your spirits," Mordechai told them.

A father approached the defense minister. "My son is joining the paratroops and there is nothing you can do about it," he said. Mordechai told him, moving on to work the crowd.

"Actually," said the father, Ya'acov Hod, "I tried everything to enduce [my son] Ro'i not to go into a combat unit. I offered him a trip abroad. I offered him my car keys. I even offered to buy him his own car. But he told me, 'Dad, I'm joining the paratroops and there is nothing you can do about it,'" said Hod, a veteran Golan soldier and today a diamond merchant in Tel Aviv.

Inside the induction center, a few hundred Golan recruits sat stiffly as Mordechai spoke to them. "Our policy is to do everything to prevent war," he said. "But for many years to come we will continue to need the best people to ensure the security of the state. For many years you lived and learned in the state and many, many people served to protect you... Now your turn has come and you and your friends have to take up this task."

IDF soldier slightly hurt in accident

By DAVID RUDGE

An IDF soldier was lightly hurt and six members of the South Lebanese Army were wounded — at least one of them seriously — as fighting continued in the region yesterday.

The IDF soldier was hurt during an accident while his artillery battery was firing at Hizballah targets north of the security zone.

Initial inquiries revealed he was lightly injured in the shoulder during the firing of a shell by his own unit. It was not clear whether he was hit by a fragment from the shell itself or was knocked over by the blast and grazed his shoulder.

The IDF is investigating the incident, which happened early yesterday morning.

The SLA soldiers were wounded in two separate roadside bomb attacks in the Jezzine enclave. Four soldiers were wounded in the first incident on Wednesday night and two others in the second one in the early hours of yesterday morning. At least one was brought to hospital in Israel for treatment.

Hizballah, which claimed responsibility for the bombings, has been concentrating many of its attacks in the past few months against the Jezzine enclave, which is controlled by troops loyal to SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad.

According to military sources, Hizballah sees Jezzine as a weak link, because of its geographical separation from the security zone and because there is no IDF presence there.

The organization, which has suffered heavy casualties in the past few months at the hands of the IDF, has been seeking an easier target in its abortive efforts so far to undermine the SLA and bring about the collapse of the security zone, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Lebanese newspapers have been reporting a security crackdown by the IDF and SLA on residents of the zone suspected of collaborating with Hizballah and other hostile organizations.

According to the newspaper and radio reports, several residents from Shi'ite and Christian villages in the zone, have been detained for questioning in the past few weeks.

The reports said stricter security was being enforced for residents wishing to make visits north of the zone and that those with mobile phones had been instructed to register the details and numbers with SLA authorities.

Golan votes to be reviewed Monday

By LIAT COLLINS

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon postponed until Monday a decision on whether there is a need for a revote on the preliminary readings of the two bills strengthening the status of the Golan Heights held Wednesday.

A bill by Eliezer Zandberg (Tzomet) that would mean only an 80 MK majority could approve territorial concessions on the Golan Heights passed preliminary reading by 43 to 40 votes, and a bill by Yehuda Harel (Third Way) which called for a 61 MK majority and a public referendum to approve all territorial changes failed in a rollcall vote that was tied 50-50.

Opposition MKs accused Tichon of calling the second vote — on the bill which passed — too soon after the first, when they were unprepared. They also criticized ministers for voting in favor of the bills, despite an announcement by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi in the plenum that the government did not support them.

Science Minister Michael Eitan, Harel and Zandberg asked Tichon to include the vote of Dan Meridor (Likud) on Harel's bill, saying he missed the vote by seconds.

Tichon said yesterday he would meet with all Knesset faction heads Monday to review together the filmed footage of the votes. After that, Tichon will announce his decision in the plenum, allowing a representative of the coalition and one of the opposition to present their claims.

He said he is going over the individual whereabouts of MKs during the second vote — which was held electronically.

Tichon, who already reviewed the video recording several times, yesterday repeated his stand that MKs had time to vote, although some opposition MKs had jumped up from their seats and gathered to celebrate the failure of Harel's bill while some coalition MKs had left in disappointment. He called out at least three times that the voting had started and had noted before the first vote that the second would follow immediately after it.

37 The Jerusalem Post
get cut
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one. Keep promises!
are ripe at Netanyahu. Mordechai...
frozen the funds allocated by...
"I am asking myself where the...
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What agreements were there in the...
See MORDECHAI, Page 14

Arak: Still new talks

See TALKS, Page 14

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See DOCUMENT, Page 14

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Arab world slams Golan proposal

By DAVID RUDGE

The Arab world appeared united yesterday in its angry reaction to the passage in the Knesset on Wednesday of the preliminary reading of a bill to strengthen the Golan law.

Criticism of the decision was widespread and unequivocal in the Arab press, with editorials in official Syrian newspapers describing it as a dangerous act of provocation.

Al-Ba'ath and A-Thawra said the decision was an escalation of the situation and an act of aggression aimed at prolonging the occupation.

The editorials were particularly critical of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu who they said had played a personal role in a bill aimed at strengthening the

"annexation of the Golan," at a time when the world was trying break the deadlock in the peace process.

The Syrian newspapers maintained that Netanyahu was trying to prevent a withdrawal from the Golan. They reiterated, however, that no Israeli steps would change the fact that the Golan belonged to Syria and always would.

A Syrian official in the Lebanese newspaper Ashraq al-Awsar said that the Golan would remain part of Syria and that it "has to be retrieved by any means."

The Knesset decision is a new blatant challenge added to others by Israel which are aimed at killing the peace process for good," the unnamed official was quoted as saying.

Mordechai: Golan bill unnecessary

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday the Golan bill was badly timed and unnecessary. "I very sorry what happened (Wednesday), I didn't participate in the vote. The fact that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defense did not participate seems to me a clear sign to the Syrians and anyone else who is listening to come speak at us on Friday's ways to make peace," Mordechai said.

"My personal opinion is that this bill at this time was not necessary. We don't need handclaps. We need a clear and unequivocal sign. And I call again on (Syrian President Hafez) Assad to come to the negotiation table to find with us a solution to the existing conflict. We must find ways that will bring about changes in relations with the Syrians," Mordechai said.

A. O'Sullivan

Hebron Jews resume building

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Despite the freeze on construction in Hebron's Jewish Quarter, settlers briefly resumed building at Beit Nahum in the Avraham Avinu Quarter yesterday. Several hours after work began, civil administration officials demanded the construction be halted. The residents complied, but threatened to take action in a week, saying their patience is running short.

On Wednesday, Jewish commu-

nity leaders received a document stating that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had given his agreement for construction to continue in Hebron's Jewish neighborhood on April 1. The document also stated that OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan is responsible for deciding the timing of such construction, after evaluating the security situation in the area.

The IDF Spokesman, however, claimed that Mordechai is responsible

for granting building permits, not Dayan. The settlers, calling the constant delays insufferable, decided to proceed with construction yesterday morning.

Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu said last night that a decision to allow construction in Hebron would be taken only after Mordechai has consulted with security officials.

Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Amon charged that the situation is impossible.

UTJ lobbies to limit tomb excavations

By HAIM SHAPIRO

United Torah Judaism leaders met yesterday with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to propose a law to limit archeological excavations in tombs, even if they are on private land. MK Avraham Ravitz said Netanyahu promised to support their bill.

In response, Antiquities Authority director Amir Drori said that if such a law were passed, not only would there be no archeological research in Israel, there would be no development.

The UTJ initiative follows a letter from Drori to the state attorney, which said that if the authority were asked by the government to perform a rescue excavation of a site threatened by impending construction, it would advise the relevant ministry whether there were tombs on the site, after which the ministry could consult with the Religious Affairs Ministry.

Normally, such tombs are covered over. The letter also stipulated that no such restriction applies when the land is privately owned, or when a burial site

was uncovered by accident. However, Ravitz said that he and his colleagues fear that archeologists might be less than straightforward when it came to identifying sites containing tombs.

"What we have here is a problem of faith," Ravitz said.

Ravitz also expressed his reservations about excavations in projects not undertaken by the government, which might be on land owned by the Israel Lands Administration, or on privately owned land. He said that the religious parties would see how the Antiquities Authority acts during the coming months, and if it continues to excavate tombs, the UTJ would put forward a private member's bill, which, Ravitz said, Netanyahu has promised to support.

Drori said that a law banning the excavation of tombs on private land would mean the end of archeology in Israel, as well as the end of all development, since the answer of the haredim to the problem of a tomb on a site intended for housing or a road is simply not to build.

See "Bones of Contention" in The Magazine.

Invitation to Submit Offers for the Purchase of a Plot in Kfar Shmaryahu

1. Offers are invited for the purchase of a plot of 1,875 sq.m. in area and is registered as bloc 6665, parcel 191.
 2. The offers should be submitted, together with a dollar-linked bank guarantee for an amount equal to 5% of the offer and valid for three months from the date of its issuance, to the office of the undersigned by August 15, 1997.
 3. The bidders will be responsible for checking the physical condition of the plot, its legal status and planning possibilities.
 4. The undersigned does not undertake to accept the highest or any other bid and reserves the right to conduct negotiations with any of the bidders, or any other party, as it deems fit.
 5. A bidder who retracts his offer will forfeit his guarantee.
 6. This invitation to purchase the plot does not constitute a tender.
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The right linkage

By a quirk of parliamentary mayhem, the first reading of a bill to shore up the Golan Heights' status passed narrowly, minutes after a weaker proposal failed on a tie vote.

Given that the bill will never become law, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's vote for it exhibited a dangerous weakness for playing politics at the expense of the peace process.

The bill introduced by Tsomet MK Eliezer Zandberg would require that any withdrawal from the Golan Heights be approved by a super-majority of 80 Knesset votes.

Though the Zandberg bill would have to pass more Knesset readings before becoming law, Syria predictably used the opportunity to blast Netanyahu for demonstrating that Israel is not serious about pursuing peace.

What Netanyahu should have done was say - as did ministers Mordechai and Levy, who opposed the bill - that it is unnecessary, because the government will in any case seek an agreement that can garner 80 votes, as did the Hebron agreement.

All will be forgotten, however, if on the Palestinian front the current deadlock is solved and talks enter a new, more serious level.

Originally, the US seemed fixated on Israel somehow cutting back, or freezing, its settlement activity in exchange for renewed Palestinian commitments to combat terror.

The US position seems to have recently shifted towards a deal in which both sides will have

to make concessions. Israel will "temporarily" restrict settlement activity in exchange for the Palestinians delaying the second Oslo withdrawal.

In broad terms, the idea of linking settlements and Oslo's further redeployments makes sense. Conceptually, the two are linked in that they are a way to better each side's negotiating position before final status talks.

Ever since the Founding Fathers of the United States framed the constitution of that country, it has been the accepted norm in democratic societies that changes to the form or system of government, or the system of elections must be adopted only after long and deliberate debate by a majority of two-thirds or three-quarters of the voting body or by a national referendum.

This lesson was deliberately disregarded by those in Israel who, five-and-a-half years ago, decided to bring about a radical change in the system of government - from that of a parliamentary democracy to a hybrid system, nonexistent anywhere in the world, where the prime minister would be elected by direct vote, while the essentials of the parliamentary system would be maintained.

Caution was thrown to the winds. The Labor Party, at the behest of Yitzhak Rabin - who was convinced that the change would improve his chance of being elected - insisted that party discipline be imposed on the Labor MKs, forcing those who opposed the change to vote for it nevertheless.

Netanyahu, for his part, will have to step forward and say that he, like Menachem Begin before him, is willing to halt all but a defined level of natural growth of the settlements while final status negotiations are proceeding.

Such a step does not represent any reduced commitment to the settlement enterprise or to Israel's historic and legal claims to the territories. Nor, if linked to the collapsing of the second and third redeployments into one, is it a unilateral concession. It is simply recognition that, after 30 years, the time everyone knew had to come is here, and the permanent status of the territory must be resolved in exchange for peace.

How not to make decisions

On January 21, 1993, the King of France, Louis XVI, was guillotined following a hasty decision taken in France's National Convention by a single vote majority. It was a demonstration of how ill-considered and ill-conceived decisions taken on the basis of a razor-thin majority can be.

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The law was railroaded through the Knesset in a marathon vote on

MOSHE ARENS

a wintry night in January 1992, when the crucial section of the law passed its second reading by a one-vote majority of 57-56, without even an absolute majority of the 120-member Knesset being obtained. Even in the final reading of the law only 55 MKs voted for the change.

There is little doubt that had the

a majority. The weakening of the large parties, brought about by this law, is demonstrated not only by their meager representation in the Knesset (the Likud has only 22 MKs, the Labor party 34), but even more so by the fact that for the first time the party forming the coalition, the Likud, does not have

The almost-daily government crises since the May 1996 elections are a direct reflection of this situation, and the inevitable result of the hybrid system that was adopted. There is a strong likelihood that unless the law for direct election of the prime minister is revoked and we return to a proper parliamentary system, we shall witness a further deterioration after the next election: an additional fragmentation of the Knesset, a decrease in representation of the parties that have a national rather than a special-interest agenda, and a resultant weakening, or even elimination, of the checks and balances that the two large parties are designed to constitute in the parliamentary system.

In other words, regardless of

who is elected, we face the danger of dysfunctional governments incapable of dealing with the multiple challenges and problems Israel will face in the years to come.

At the moment it seems that both potential candidates for prime minister in the next elections, Binyamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak, oppose a return to parliamentary democracy, evidently in the belief that the present system will ensure their victory at the polls. Obviously, they cannot both be right.

More compelling is that the interests of the country must override the interests of any single individual, and those interests call for a change in the system.

In the last few days, calls have been heard for the immediate introduction of an amendment to the direct election law that would allow the Knesset to remove the prime minister by a simple majority of 61 without dissolving the Knesset, as provided by the present law.

This is another example of attempting hastily to bring about a significant change in an important law while introducing what is essentially a retroactive correction. It is not to be recommended.

Difficult as it may be, we will have to live with the present law for the duration of this government. Hopefully, we will have the good sense to revoke it and return to parliamentary democracy before the next elections.

The writer is a former senior Likud minister.

Throw caution to the winds. Railroad a fateful law through the Knesset. Direct election is a failed experiment

Labor members of Knesset been allowed to vote freely according to their best judgment, the law would not have passed.

In years to come it will no doubt be studied as an outstanding example of the damage that can be done when decisions of cardinal importance are taken in haste, based on a bare majority, and motivated by an individual's or a party's perception of the benefit to be gained by them.

The experiment to which the people of Israel were subjected this past year by the law for the direct election of the prime minister has clearly failed.

THE Knesset today is dominated by special-interest groups. For the first time in Israel's history, the two major parties - Likud and Labor - together do not command

a majority in the cabinet.

The almost-daily government crises since the May 1996 elections are a direct reflection of this situation, and the inevitable result of the hybrid system that was adopted.

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Pick and choose your civil liberties

Press accounts of Avigdor Eskin's sentencing for having invoked the pulsa d'nura kabbalistic curse against Yitzhak Rabin leave one uncertain about whether Eskin was tried for incitement, or because his boast that he killed Rabin with his curse was taken seriously.

Those accounts invariably note that Rabin was assassinated only 32 days after Eskin's pulsa d'nura ceremony. Several enterprising journalists have compiled lists of various public figures allegedly struck down with curses. (Of course, Shimon Peres, also a victim of one of Eskin's curses, is still very much with us - unless a fifth electoral defeat is considered a fate worse than death.)

This fascination with the pulsa d'nura reflects the infantilization of religion in Israel. Secular Israelis have no trouble believing that three guys in sandals can go down to the neighborhood Kabbalist for incantations so they can rub out their enemies list.

But the idea that God might actually care about how we choose to observe His commandments strikes them as the height of absurdity, and the belief in reward and punishment as sure proof of a primitive mind.

Obsession with the pulsa d'nura is the Israeli counterpart of Hollywood "Kabbalah" study groups, with deep thinkers such as Madonna gathering weekly to ponder Jewish mysticism.

Hocus-pocus is groovy; it's the ethical content of religion that's a drag.

PERHAPS more disturbing is what Eskin's sentence reveals about the state of civil liberties in Israel today. Incitement statutes are being used as a blunderbuss to punish offensive behavior by characters on the fringe.

The standard for incitement has always been proof of a "clear and present danger," akin, in Oliver

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

Wendell Holmes's words, to shouting "fire" in a crowded theater.

The current spate of prosecutions for incitement is predicated on an empirically dubious proposition: If Shimon hears that Yossi, whom he doesn't know, hates the same public personality he does, he is more likely to become an assassin. In fact, assassins tend to be disgruntled loners nursing private grudges, or else, like Yigal Amir, so convinced of their own

Instead we have the almost daily spectacle of one MK or another pointing an accusing finger at someone for speaking unkindly about him. Inevitably the accusation is followed by a threat to go tell morany (the police) that "so-and-so is inciting against me or my group."

MERETZ poses as the champion of civil liberties, but its leaders have repeatedly demonstrated that for them civil liberties are merely

Hocus-pocus is groovy, it's the ethical content of religion that's a drag

brilliance that they are likely to be little influenced by others.

Eskin did not call for any illegal action, much less pose an immediate threat of rousing someone else to commit illegal acts.

On its face, the pulsa d'nura is quaint - a request directed toward "destructive angels," not one's fellow citizens. Nor is it clear when, if anyone, was listening to Eskin.

Eskin's conviction for incitement is surpassed for absurdity only by that of David Bel-Hassan for telling a TV reporter that he was happy about the Rabin assassination.

In dismissing the state's case Judge Philip Marcus made the rather obvious point that it is impossible to incite anyone to murder someone who is already dead. Amazingly, he was reversed on appeal.

Why have there been so few protests by civil libertarians about the use of incitement statutes to clear the streets of loonies or those who defy the conventions of polite speech? Where are the Israeli Voltaires prepared to defend to the death their opponents' right to express noxious thoughts?

a means to realizing their political agenda.

Free speech, freedom of the press and academic freedom are all sacrificed whenever Meretz sees an opportunity to advance by other means its goal of a completely secular state.

Immediately after the Rabin assassination, Shulamit Aloni rushed to call for a cutoff of government funding to Bar-Ilan University, where Yigal Amir studied, and a wide-scale investigation of the university.

One cannot escape the suspicion that Aloni saw a convenient club to use against an institution that is anathema in her eyes for its nominal religious identity, and because its student body is perceived as being to the right of the Hebrew University's.

Even more glaring were the widespread calls last summer for the closing of Yored Ne'eman on the grounds that columnist Chaim Walder had incited to violence by writing that Supreme Court President Aharon Barak was turning himself into a dictator and was an enemy of the religious public. Never mind that the charge of

dictatorship under the banner of "everything is justiciable" had been made by everyone from Yitzhak Rabin to Avraham Burg, and that equally sharp criticisms of Barak's judicial overreaching could be found everywhere from learned academic journals to Jerusalem's virulently anti-religious Kol Ha'ir.

And never mind that Walder himself had been an outspoken critic of any use of violence. Just the week before, he had called on the haredi community to restrain stone-throwers on Bar-Ilan Street physically, thereby removing a poisonous root from its midst.

The baying hounds, led by Yossi Sarid, smelled blood. The opportunity to remove the Yaredi thorn in their side caused them quickly to forget all the American precedents on freedom of the press so beloved by those who wish to impose an US-style constitution on Israel. Forgotten was Sullivan vs. the New York Times, which made it almost impossible for a public figure to win a libel judgment lest press criticism be stifled.

Forgotten too was the Pentagon Papers case in which the US Supreme Court ruled that only the clearest showing of an imminent threat to national security could justify any prior restraint of the press, much less closing a paper entirely.

The silence by Meretz and other civil libertarians in the face of the incitement prosecutions of right-wing extremists is thus just one more chapter in a long history of hypocrisy.

Eskin may be madder than the Mad Hatter, but imprisoning him out of some secret suspicion that his pulsa d'nura caused the prime minister's assassination - or because he incited anyone else to violence - is the height of insanity.

The writer is a biographer and former editor of the English Yated Ne'eman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLAIMS CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Sir - Recently it has been reported in numerous newspapers, including The Jerusalem Post, that many Jewish families are in serious dispute with the Claims Conference about moneys which were obtained from restitution or compensation from the German government, moneys which were retained by the Conference officials under various pretexts and were not transferred to the legal heirs. Our families are such an example.

Your report of July 4 that the Claims Conference supports charitable activities from these funds is surely irrelevant to such disputes, if they did not do so, they would go counter to their charter. But charitable activities do not entitle the officers of the Claims Conference to use money which is

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Sir - Jonathan Rosenblum's op-ed article of June 17 on America's "Do-it-yourself Torah" was on target - except for some serious omissions. He forgot that his dismal statistics about religious observance apply equally well to America's Orthodox Jews. He also forgot the "imperfections" of the majority of Israeli Jews who view themselves as secular. Obviously, Rosenblum has not met my numerous "Orthodox" American and Israeli Jewish acquaintances who love a good ham-and-cheese sandwich and think I'm old-fashioned for keeping kosher even when I'm outside my "Conservative" home.

Rosenblum wants to stereotype those who disagree with his narrow view of Judaism so he can then marginalize and ignore them. He doesn't want to admit the diversity of the Jewish people or admit that individual Jewish practices vary considerably in both America and Israel. Certainly, Israeli Orthodox Jewry does not represent the one true form of Judaism. Next time Rosenblum should tell the whole truth, not just the parts he can twist to fit the story he wants to sell.

JUSTIN COHEN, M.D.

Englewood, Colorado.

HAREDI SENSITIVITY

Sir - Jonathan Rosenblum ("The final exile of Jews among Jews," July 4), asks where is the sensitivity to the pain of "religious Jews." I would ask where is the sensitivity of the haredi Jews to "religious Jews" of other denominations. Where is the sensitivity to the majority of Jews in this country who are not haredi? Where is the sensitivity to the young men, most if not

all who were not haredi, who fought and died to liberate Jerusalem?

I would say to Mr. Rosenblum that, when the haredim show sensitivity to all Jews, and stop trying to force their interpretation of Torah on the larger Jewish community, they will find the sensitivity he desires.

M. GOODBAUM

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On July 25, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that the High Court had refused the application of Mr. B.A. Rosenblatt for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the validity of the Land Transfer Regulations.

50 years ago: On July 25, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine left Lebanon for Geneva. The three British "floating

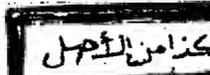
cages" carrying 4,500 "illegal" immigrants to Palestine, accompanied by destroyers, were expected to arrive at the French Port de Bouc. Sickness had broken in the ships which carried one dead and over 150 ill people.

125 Jewish orphans arrived in Paris from Sweden pending their resettlement in Palestine. The children were taken care of by Youth Aliya, while Joint Distribution Committee bore all the costs.

Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPT

- HOW TO write this "grammar made easy" primer has been getting chuckles for years, but it's not officially funny until you read it here in Postscripts...
1. Don't abbrev.
2. Check to see if you any words out.
3. Be carefully to use adjectives and adverbs correct.
4. About sentence fragments.
5. When dangling, don't use participles.
6. Don't use no double negatives.
7. Each pronoun agrees with their antecedent.
8. Just between you and I, case is important.
9. Join clauses good, like a conjunction should.
10. Don't use commas, that aren't necessary.
11. Its important to use apostrophe's right.
12. It's better not to unnecessarily split an infinitive.
13. Never leave a transitive verb just lay there without an object.
14. Only Proper Nouns should be capitalized.
15. also a sentence should begin with a capital and end with a period.
16. Use hyphens in compound-words, not just in any two-word phrase.
17. In letters compositions reports and things like that we use commas to keep a string of items apart.
18. Watch out for irregular verbs which have crept into our language.
19. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
20. Avoid unnecessary redundancy.
21. Don't write a run-on sentence you've got to punctuate it.
22. A preposition isn't a good thing to end a sentence with.
23. Avoid cliches like the plague.



A more benign nationalism

YOSEF GOELL

Over the past few years a bevy of young Israeli academics have been busy exploding many of the myths connected with early Zionism, Israel's founding and our half-century of confrontation with the Arabs.

Some deserve debunking - like the preposterous exaggeration which has the Israeli-Arab conflict waged between heroic, saintly (and handsome) Israelis and evil, cowardly Arabs and Palestinians.

Such unreal - and often clearly racist - portrayals virtually beg for a healthy dose of skepticism. The problem begins when selective debunking becomes the determined mass slaughter of complex historical truths.

Last Sunday night, TV's Channel 1 devoted two in-depth programs to the 50th anniversary of the most famous "illegal" immigrant ship, the *Exodus 1947*.

Between 1944-47, as World War II was ending and the enormity of the Holocaust emerging, the Zionist leadership of the Yishuv in Mandatory Palestine dispatched scores of leaky ships, many manned by young American-Jewish volunteers, across the Mediterranean, carrying close to 100,000 Holocaust survivors whom the British refused to allow into Palestine. The British succeeded in intercepting nearly all these ships, sending their human cargo to further internment in Cyprus.

This was unquestionably part of the battle for American and British public opinion over the future of Palestine, which postwar Britain was on the verge of abandoning in favor of creating a quasi-independent Arab Palestine.

In mid-1947, British foreign secretary Ernest Bevin made a

fatal mistake in that battle when he decided that the 4,500 passengers on one of those ships - the *Exodus* - be returned to their DP camps in France. When all except 130 refused to disembark from their prison ships, Bevin ordered them shipped back to Hamburg.

It is very likely that the public opinion storm over the forcible

return of Holocaust survivors to a recently defeated Nazi Germany - on the orders of a foreign secretary who did not bother to disguise his antisemitism - was instrumental in our bairbreidh victory at the UN General Assembly which, several months later, voted to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.

On Sunday night's panel, a young revisionist historian asserted that after several years in dusty archives, he had discovered that some of the refugees had been coerced by Zionist agents into boarding the *Exodus* for its ill-fated journey. Last year, another revisionist historian wrote a much more detailed book about the coercion that had allegedly prevented the deported *Exodus* refugees from disembarking in France.

A dramatic note was introduced when a number of *Exodus* survivors on the panel, backed up by scores and possibly hundreds of other survivors in the audience,

disagreed with this vehemently, insisting that they had fought each other for the privilege of boarding the ship.

It was fascinating seeing today's revisionist intellectuals simply unable to believe that so many young people who had barely escaped the Holocaust could be willing to attempt a further sacrifice: the seemingly hopeless voyage of the *Exodus*.

Labor leader Ehud Barak delivered one of the evening's most telling comments when he said how fortunate it was that this generational confrontation was being televised today; for in another decade or so there would be no survivors to refute the revisionists.

WHY dwell on all this now? Because with Israel's approaching 50th anniversary, the debates can be expected to heat up.

It is important to resist the temptation to silence the revisionists. Their microvision can be accurate. But their often nitpicking micro-truths need to be placed in the context of historical macro-truth.

In the comparative world context, we might remember that all "national liberation" movements had nasty as well as exhilarating attributes. And as things go, Zionism has been one of the more benign and least brutal nationalisms; regrettably, the opposite must be said of the PLO.

Jewishly speaking, the fight for the creation of Israel and its preservation has been the biggest event in Jewish history since that other *Exodus*. We should be proud it happened to us.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Zionism is in deep trouble

DAN LEON

Is 100 years of Zionism too large a subject to be dealt with seriously by contemporary Zionists? Here are three reasons to fear that Zionism is in deep trouble in the centenary year.

In the wake of the Ramat Gan tragedy, the press has been running very large ads in which Maccabiah athletes from abroad declare that the games have become "a true test of the human spirit," a tradition which "we will not break - neither will our children or grandchildren."

Amateur sport as a test of the human spirit? What kitsch - or, as Bertrand Russell once remarked, "It is undesirable to believe a proposition when there is no ground whatsoever for supposing it is true."

A second and graver item is a glossy 18-page brochure called *Telling the Tale: 100 Years of Zionism* put out by the Jewish Agency and the WZO.

Here one can read much about Zionist history, achievements and personalities. Everything, in fact - except that from this brochure, one would hardly know that at the very heart of Zionist history over the last 100 years is the conflict with the Palestinian people and the Arab world.

Only on the last pages does Yitzhak Rabin's rapprochement with Arafat get a mention, and David Harman, to his credit, writes about the peace process.

A full-page Test of Zionism Literacy contains 18 questions, but the Israeli-Arab conflict isn't mentioned in any of them.

The Jewish historical, religious, spiritual and national connection to Eretz Yisrael is a fact. It is also, of course, true that thanks to Zionism, Israel has today the second-largest Jewish population in the world.

But another fact, the existence of a large (and majority) Palestinian population before 1948 is taboo in the brochure ("Palestine was a bar-

ren backwater of the Ottoman Empire"), and the great exodus of some 700,000 Palestinians in 1948 doesn't warrant a single word.

It is as if 100 years of Zionism took place in a vacuum.

We read that after the destruction of the Second Temple to 70 CE, there was always a "Jewish presence" in Eretz Yisrael, in spite of "a break in Jewish sovereignty" and "various foreign invaders." One wouldn't know that, as Prof.

A question mark hangs over the future of a movement which cannot honestly examine its past or map its future

Yeshayahu Leibovitch once remarked, the Dome of the Rock has stood on its present site longer than the two Jewish Temples together in their day.

"Ideological and practical differences between the Zionist leaders" are mentioned, but not proposals and counter-proposals made by many of them on Jews and Arabs.

This is not surprising, because it is only at the end of the text that Arabs and Palestinians appear in the story.

Happily, there is no mention of the slogan "a people without a land for a land without a people."

We are told that Ahmad Ha'am "grew disillusioned with the Hovevei Zion approach to settling the Land of Israel," but from this we can hardly guess that he wrote in 1891: "The Jewish settlers treat the Arabs with hostility and cruelty."

Nobody is calling a halt to this contemptible and dangerous trend." He warned against underestimating the Arabs, and that "they will not let us take their place without a fight."

FOR without its different streams of thought about Jewish-Arab relations, Zionist history lacks a vital dimension.

No objective writer can describe 100 years of Zionism without recognizing the importance, or as many would say the centrality, of the conflict both before and after 1948.

And what can Zionism today contribute to peace without a recognition that in Eretz Yisrael two peoples, and not only one, have legitimate rights for national self-determination?

Finally comes the new law obligating all publicly-funded schools (about 3,000) to fly the Israeli flag.

The flag was, of course, the flag of Zionism before it was adopted by Israel. But can such a symbol be enforced by law against many hundreds of thousands of dissenting citizens?

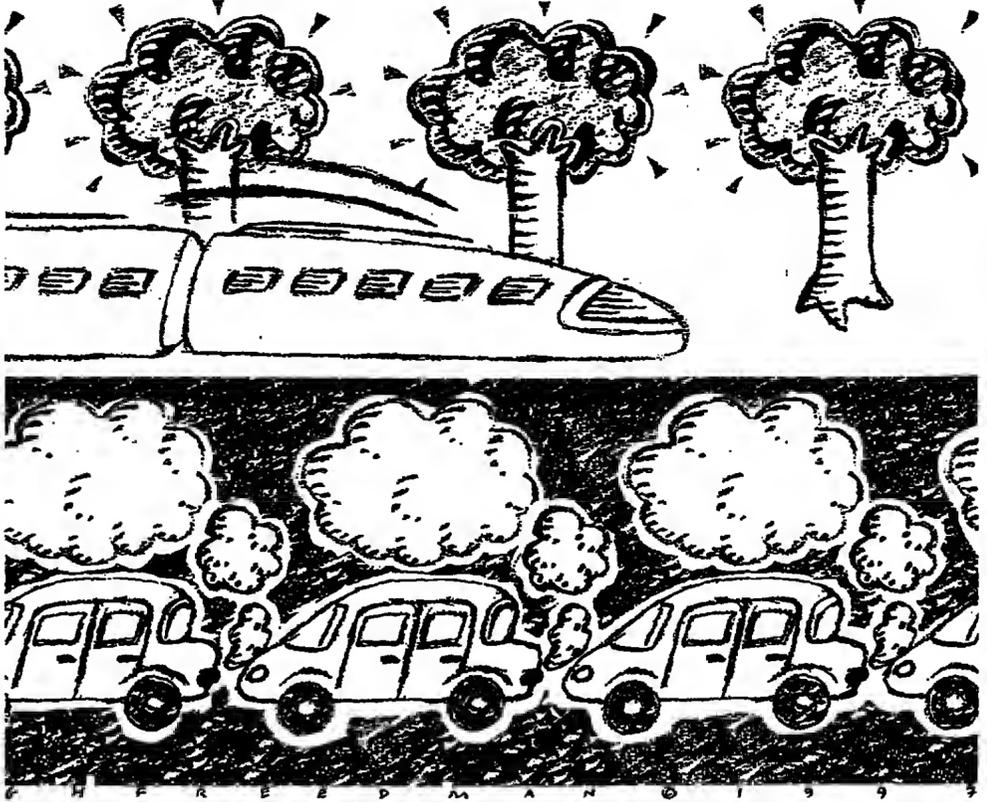
Legislation can't make a haredi Jew into a Zionist any more than it can make an Israeli Palestinian sing in "Hatikva" that "as long as sleep in the heart of the soul of a Jew yearns... to Zion."

If making it compulsory to fly the flag is Mloister Limor Livnat's "greatest achievement," that only demonstrates the impoverishment of Zionist theory and practice in our times.

In its centenary, a question mark inevitably hangs over the future of a movement which cannot examine its past or map its future honestly.

Ironically, it is the Zionists, and not the new historians, who are rewriting history.

The writer is co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.



The facts speak for themselves

MAURICE SEGAL

In August 1981, *The Jerusalem Post* printed an article I wrote entitled "Taking death off the roads" which argued that the only way to ensure safe travel in Israel was to undertake the massive development of the country's railway system.

The article pointed out that a railway existed that had been designed to such stringent safety standards that it was almost injury proof. The reference was to Japan's Tokaido line and its Shinkansen "bullet" train, which had been in service since 1964 with a perfect safety record.

Sixteen years have passed since that article appeared. Billions more Japanese have traveled the Tokaido line, with only one fatality - a student was killed when he was caught in a door in 1995.

During those 16 years, 8,400 Israelis have been killed and some 300,000 injured on our roads.

The Tokaido line's Shinkansen trains travel the 515 km between Tokyo and Osaka in two-and-a-half hours. During the past 20 years Shinkansen lines have been extended throughout the length of the country for a total of 2,500 km, linking all the main centres of Japan. The length of the Tokaido line is approximately the length of a railway line from Eilat to Kiryat Shmona which would serve most of our population centres.

The Shinkansen's incredible safety record, despite typhoons, earthquakes and exceptionally heavy snowfalls, is a tribute to the foresight and intelligence of the planners of the line, who enlisted advanced technology in the service of safety.

The line has no level crossings (where a large percentage of train accidents occur). Tracks are wide (1435 mm). The radius of curves is a minimum of 2.5 km. The control system is automatic, with centralized traffic control in Tokyo. At the slightest earth tremor the line automatically shuts down.

Since 1964 an average of 400,000 passengers have traveled the Tokaido line every day - a total of 4 billion passenger kilometers.

Japan's death rate for the private automobile is 10 deaths per billion kilometers. Had the 4 billion

Japanese driven the same distance by car, approximately 20,000 would have died on the way.

Israel's death rate for the private automobile is 12 deaths per billion kilometers.

In the US passenger rail is nearly 18 times as safe as private car travel, with 0.4 deaths per billion passenger kilometers, compared to 7 deaths for the private automobile.

Apart from the fact that a properly designed rail system is infinitely

safer than a road system, there is growing evidence of the tremendous social, economic, and environmental cost of a transport system too heavily based on private-car use.

An OECD conference attended by the transport ministers of 31 European countries declared the need to reduce dependence on cars and roads by shifting transport infrastructure investments to other modes of travel. Israeli planning institutes fully subscribed to these principles.

In 1988, Israel's National Council for Planning and Construction declared that "the planning of mass transit was of the highest priority" and recommended that planning agencies give priority to planning procedures related to rail.

In 1990-91 Israel's Public Works Department published its five-year plan, in which the development of roads was based on the assumption of "massive rail development."

In 1991-93, *Tama 31*, a national master plan, argued that Israel's biggest transportation priority

should be "a massive and immediate investment in public transport, even if this initially harms the level of service to private cars."

But while they went ahead with the Trans-Israel Highway, none of the above - repeated - recommendations were implemented.

Those responsible for road construction have the political clout to push their projects through. But Israel has no railway lobby: no railway experts working in the Ministry of Transport; no railway consultants or rolling stock manufacturers.

In short, it has no vested interests that can make large profits out of railways.

TWO months ago, Dr Ya'akov Garb, a researcher into the assumptions underlying environmental practices and technological systems, published a report for the Floersheimer Institute for Policy Studies warning that the significance of the Trans-Israel Highway extends beyond the project itself. The next five years are critical.

By 2010, Garb says, Israel could have double the number of cars on the road today and little budget for anything else - or it could be well on its way to a competitive rail system; an expanded bus service with extensive separate lanes; the creation of new communities and the renewal of old ones that don't require extensive car use.

What about safety? Garb writes that road injuries have not been calculated by the highway planners in their cost-benefit analysis.

The Trans-Israel Highway projections assume that by 2010, Israel - without the Negev - will have more cars per square kilometer than any country or city today except Hong Kong and Singapore. Israel will be almost twice as car dense as small, highly populated European countries today (Netherlands, Belgium) and six times as car dense as today's Denmark.

This alone guarantees a substantial increase in pollution levels which will seriously endanger health.

The highway planners claimed that there would be reductions in road injuries and deaths due to safer travel on a higher quality road; but these are likely to be paid with our blood and our tears: injuries due to raised speeds and higher traffic volumes throughout the network.

The horrendous cost in road injuries has not been calculated.

Have we Israelis become so inured to violence and death that we are prepared to leave the awesome question of "who will live and who will die" to the megalomaniacs who don't calculate road injuries?

We must confront our leaders and demand that they act now to take death off our roads. If they fail us, the heaviest toll exacted by the Trans-Israel Highway will be paid with our blood and our tears.

Concerned readers can write to Adam Teva V'din, the Israel Union for Environmental Defense, at 7 Carlebach Street, Tel Aviv 67132, or fax them at 03-562-3776.

The writer is a Jerusalem architect who worked in Tokyo for eight years as chief architect of two leading US firms. From 1968 to 1971, he was Israel's special representative to the International Engineering Consultants (Japan). He initiated visits to Israel by leading Japanese railway consultants to offer advice to the Transport Ministry.

In 16 years, there has been one fatality on Japan's Tokaido railway line, a student caught in a door in 1995. In the same period, 8,400 Israelis died on our roads

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On the completion of the Shloshim for
KURT LANDES ז"ל
 The memorial service and the unveiling of the stone will be held on Wednesday, July 30, 1997 (25 Tamuz 5757) at 6 p.m., at Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.
 We will meet at the main car park.
 The family

On the first *yahrzeit* of our beloved mother
ERNA KLEIN ז"ה
 we will reinter our dear father
JACOB KLEIN
 רפאל יעקב בן אליעזר ז"ל
 on Wednesday, July 30 (25 Tamuz).
 The *aron* will arrive on El Al flight 018 at 1:00 p.m. We will meet at 3:30 p.m. at Har Hazetim - Helkat Hakedoshim. For details, please call 02-642-4243.
 Miriam Levy
 Eli and Chava Klein
 Ruth and Julius Feust

MIGDAL OHR INSTITUTIONS
 We deeply mourn the passing of our very dear friend and patron
JACK LIBERMAN
 and extend our heartfelt condolences to the family.
 Rabbi Yitzchak Dovid Grossman
 Founder and Dean of Migdal Ohr
 The children and staff of Migdal Ohr Institutions

With broken hearts, we announce the sudden passing of our dearly beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law and uncle
PINCHAS USZER EJLENBERG ז"ל
 In Amsterdam on Wednesday, July 23, 1997 (18 Tamuz 5757).
 Wife: Tola Ejlberg-Raszewski
 Son: Mark and Vera Ejlberg, Sander and Naomi
 Daughter: Fellen and Micha Neuhaua, Daphne, Debbie and Dionne
 Sweden/France: Basia Ejlberg, children and grandchildren
 Sweden/Israel: David and Rezel Ejlberg, children and grandchildren
 Israel/Netherlands: Dora Raszewski, children and grandchildren
 Israel: Yossi and Avi Raszewski and family
 USA: Marlene Lefkowitz
 The funeral will take place in Amsterdam today, Friday, July 25, 1997. Correspondence address: Apollolaan 37, 1077 AC Amsterdam Fax: 00 31 20 6812897

With deepest sorrow, we announce the passing on July 23, 1997, of
ANN SOLOMON (née Dinkin)
 our dear mother and grandmother.
 Shiva at 66 Hankin Street, Ra'anana.
 The Jacobs Family

We mourn the death of
CHAIM REGGIE LEVINE ז"ל
 The Family
 Shiva in Jerusalem, until July 27.
 For details, please call 02-678-7116.

LESLIE LAZARUS
 passed away on July 24, 1997, in Durban, South Africa.
 Deeply mourned by his sister, Mavis Gottlieb, and family.

The unveiling of the tombstone of our beloved
DAVID ISRAEL SLUTZKIN ז"ל
 will take place on Tuesday July 29th at 4.30pm. We shall meet at the main entrance to the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery in the car park
 Katie Slutzkin
 Uri and Rivka Seia
 Arieh and Miriam Seia
 Yehudit Seia
 Grandchildren and family



Miami Beach police and FBI agents are seen outside the houseboat where Andrew Cunanan, the suspected murderer of Gianni Versace and four others, was found dead in an apparent suicide. (Reuters)

Suspected killer Cunanan shoots self

By EVAN PEREZ
MIAMI BEACH (AP) — Andrew Cunanan, the suspected serial killer who eluded a nationwide manhunt for nearly three months, shot himself to death in a houseboat just 4 kilometers from the spot where Gianni Versace was gunned down.
 Tonight, all across the nation, our citizens can stand down and breathe a sigh of relief. The nationwide manhunt for Andrew Philip Cunanan is over. Miami Beach police chief Richard Barreto said today.
 More than 100 policemen and FBI agents surrounded the floating, two-story home after a report of a gunshot coming from inside.
 Police officers shouted, "Come out! Come out!" but the man believed hiding inside did not respond. Police then fired tear gas and six heavily armed officers dressed in black flak jackets and armed with rifles and a shield rushed in at about 8:15 p.m. Wednesday local time.
 The 27-year-old Cunanan shot up to the top of the FBI's most wanted list as the prime suspect in the slayings of Versace and four other men in Minnesota, Illinois and New Jersey. After the Versace slaying, Cunanan left a stolen truck in a parking garage and vanished.
 "We were probably prepared for something like this," FBI spokeswoman Coleen Crowley said. "A person who is using desperate means and exhibiting this kind of violent behavior, you have to be prepared for a very violent conclusion."
 Residents near the houseboat had reported seeing a man matching Versace's description after Versace was shot to death on the front steps of his mansion on July 15. On Wednesday, a caretaker who stopped by the home called police to report a gunshot.
 The houseboat is 4 kms from the Versace mansion and about 1.5 km from the hotel where a man fitting Cunanan's description stayed for as long as two months before Versace's slaying.
Jim Gomez adds from Manila: A Filipino aunt said yesterday that Andrew Cunanan, the accused slayer of fashion designer Gianni Versace, grew up in California as a "good, religious boy."
 "I did not know that he will turn up like that," Barbara Carlos, 64, said after hearing reports that Cunanan's body was found.
 Carlos seemed resigned to her nephew's fate even before Miami police confirmed that the body was that of the 27-year-old Cunanan.
 "That is his destiny. That is his life. We are saddened. Even if we have not been together for a long time, we are saddened by what happened," said Carlos, a younger sister of Cunanan's father, Modesto.
 She said she visited her brother's family in San Diego in 1983, when Cunanan was still in grade school.
 "I did not notice anything unusual then," she said. "They were a happy, religious family. They often went to church. I remember Andrew was always wearing a necklace with an image of the Virgin Mary. He always greeted me. After meals, he would go to his room to read his books. He was fond of books."
 After she was told that police had identified her nephew's body, she said she would offer a Mass for him.
 She said she was not in touch with Cunanan's father who had refused to speak with reporters and hurriedly left his residence in nearby Plaridel last week. His whereabouts are still unknown.
 Modesto Cunanan, a former stockbroker in California, abandoned the family in 1988 and fled to the Philippines when he learned he was wanted for allegedly illegal financial dealings.
 Philippine police located him last week in Plaridel.
 "We are saddened because he was a Filipino," said Estrella Taoy, a neighbor of the elder Cunanan. "But if he did something wrong, he must pay for it."

UK gov't to end free college tuition

By FRED BARBASH
LONDON (The Washington Post) — Britain's new Labor Party government announced this week an end to tuition-free higher education, a pillar of the country's once-expansive welfare state that Labor helped build in the years following World War II.
 It proposed that full-time university students — except for the very poor — pay roughly \$1,600 a year for their university educations to relieve a financial crisis caused by a combination of less government money for universities and dramatically increasing enrollments.
 Although the long-expected move brought protests from student organizations, government officials expressed confidence that it will not be stopped.
 The Labor Party, led by Prime Minister Tony Blair, enjoys a huge majority in the House of Commons, and the country's universities are desperate for money, saying they will confront a \$5 billion annual shortfall by the year 2000.
 The alternative would be tax increases, which the government has promised to avoid. Higher education is a "privilege," said David Blunkett, education and employment secretary. "Why should someone who gets up at 5 a.m. to clean floors pay for that privilege?"
 The announcement followed the release of an independent, government-commissioned study suggesting that higher education in Britain was trailing behind that of other affluent countries, with prospects for improvement limited in the absence of a major infusion of new money.
 "Our university system is in crisis," said Blunkett, and in "dire need of attention."
 "Our competitors in North America and the Far East have many more young people in higher education," he said. "In the USA, participation is about 40 percent and in Canada 44 percent."
 Currently, tuition for full-time students is paid out of tax revenue. Students and families pay for maintenance costs, such as housing, averaging about \$6,500 annually, much of it borrowed or obtained through grants. Under the new system, all students will be asked to pay the combined costs once they are employed, possibly through the tax-collection process.
 Former students earning less than \$25,000 when employed will not have to make payments under the current proposal. The average income of uni-

Column One

Spirit of Braveheart twice distilled

By Thomas O'Dwyer

Irish and Scots share the same languages, legends, and scenery, but put them together and strangers often fear they are about to witness mortal combat.
 "In Ireland, we distill whiskey three times."
 "Aye — well in Scotland we g' it right the second time."
 "Ah, well, we drink ours in a free country."
 "Except in the North, where yeer more like to get blown up first."
 "Well maybe when the Scots run their own country, they'll take back their Protestant settlers and we can all live in peace."
 And so on. But it's all banter designed to confuse "them." The Celts are kith and kin and cousins. (After all, why else would they get an Irishman, Liam Neeson, to play Rob Roy?)
 When the first Scotsman inspected the land God had allocated for his people he returned to the Creator and said: "I dinna' get it. It's a beautiful country wi' lakes and highlands, and sparkling streams, and lowlands fit for barley. We can live on whiskey and oats and Ye tell me when the time comes 'need it we'll have black oil offshore for the future. What's the catch?"
 "Aha," said God. "Ye hav' nay yet seen who y'r neighbors are."
The rub
 There are three sides to every story, and if you ask an Englishman why the grass in Scotland and Ireland is so green, he's likely to reply, "because they're all over here walking on ours."
 All this merely illustrates that, for all the bitter "history," the rivalry between the various parts of these North Atlantic islands has, in modern times, become reasonably good natured — with the cautionary exception of Northern Ireland.
 Will it remain so now that Scottish devolution has been put back on the agenda by the new government in London? There's the rub.
 Yesterday Whitehall unveiled its White Paper on the issue — a policy document for public debate in advance of legislation.
 The question, of course, is not whether devolution is a "good thing" — of course it is — but whether the White Paper will uncork the bottle containing the brooding genie of Scottish independence.
 Yes, Scotland would get its first parliament in almost 300 years under the plan in the White Paper, which proposes a 129-seat assembly for Edinburgh in the year 2000.
 But the London-based government insists that no way is it a step to independence. Like Home Rule for Ireland wasn't!

A plot
 "But it's an election pledge and that's it — get on with it," said Morgan, who clearly sees devolution as the gas needed for the more important independence engine.
 Scotland's five million people get to have their say on September 11 on this first legislative authority north of the border since the 1707 Act of Union.
 Needless to say, British Conservatives are fuming — it's all a plot to dismember the United Kingdom.
 In the rest of Europe, it appears the Scots have so distinctive, powerful, and attractive a culture that many people think the country already is independent.
 In Ireland, where support for Scottish independence is universal, they've wondered for years what's taking them so long — probably too much incompletely distilled malt is to blame. Or maybe they should enlist Liam Neeson in the cause.
 At least they have one of their own and their best on the right side — it turns out the quintessential James Bond of MI6 is a no-so-undercover true patriot.
 The name is Connery — Sean Connery, SNP member — and he says: "I believe Scotland must again become an independent nation. Not because Scotland is different, but because Scotland is simply the same — the same as every other wealthy small country in Europe. What we seek for Scotland is the normal status of a small ancient nation — one that has almost 70 percent of Europe's crucial energy reserves, and yet has to stand outside when the important decisions are taken."

CORRECTION

In the advertisement concerning overseas phone services that appeared on Friday, July 18, the information for Bezeq International was incorrectly noted.

The correct number for information on charges for calls to various countries through Bezeq International is:

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Are the PA Police toeing or crossing the line?

The capture of Palestinian police allegedly on their way to stage a terrorist attack raises the question: Did Arafat know? Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib report.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat takes the salute as Palestinian police pass by in Gaza City during a celebration of Palestinian Police Day.

Brig-Gen. Ghazi Jabali gathers 600 officers of the Palestinian police in Gaza for a meeting. He complains that the Israelis have canceled his VIP card and he is now cut off from the West Bank, let alone from the Israeli security establishment. "But I can manage the police affairs in the West Bank by telephone," he says.

That's Jabali for you, his Palestinian colleagues smirk. Spit in his face and he'll call it rain. He is regarded as the most obsequious of Yasser Arafat's generals. He is also the focus of an Israeli investigation into the capture of a group of Palestinian police officers nabbed on their way to what Israel claims was an attack on Israeli settlers near Nablus.

Israeli security officials say the operation was so amateurish it was laughable. Jabali, according to investigators, ordered Nablus police Inspector-General Col. Jihad Massimi to prepare a squad for attacks on Jewish settlers. Massimi found three willing volunteers — Saad Naji, Ismail A-Shafi, and Ahmed Umbeyad, all Fatah activists recently drafted into the force. They confessed to carrying out several shooting attacks against Israelis in the Nablus region.

"There was no attempt to compartmentalize information," an Israeli security source says. "There was no attempt to distance Jabali from the operation. The line went straight from the three we caught to Jabali. Now who would do something as stupid as that?" But foolish as it may be, Israeli and even some Palestinian security sources say the operation looms menacingly over the peace process. Few believe that Jabali operated alone, although most hope they don't have the evidence to prove it. If Jabali acted, then Arafat knew.

"If Ghazi Jabali was indeed involved in this, then he would not have done this without Arafat's approval," says a Palestinian analyst who, like most Palestinians interviewed, did not want to be identified. "He is Arafat's mouthpiece."

As the analyst and some Palestinian Authority security sources see it, Jabali has been a total failure as Palestinian commander of the PA's 40,000 officers. He was installed by Arafat to fulfill the responsibilities of his superior, Maj.-Gen. Nasser Yusef, because of the latter's independence and demands for genuine reforms. Yusef remains the commander of all the police forces but as one senior Palestinian officer put it, "He can barely get anybody to get him a cup of coffee these days."

Jabali's rule of the police force has brought public confidence to a new low. PA officials acknowl-

edge that police officers routinely shake down businessmen, offer themselves as hired hands, eat at restaurants and refuse to pay, and force prominent Palestinians to pay protection money. They say that Jabali encourages this, seeing the extra money as a way to augment the monthly NIS 700 salary most officers receive.

Over the last month, public pressure has mounted to replace Jabali. Public-opinion polls show 85 percent of those Palestinians surveyed asserting that there is either a fair or large amount of corruption in the PA and calling for all of Arafat's ministers to be replaced. A commission appointed by Arafat to report on corruption in the Palestinian Authority submitted a report that agreed with this sentiment. The committee, in a 127-page report submitted last week, urged the dismissal of ministers and senior bureaucrats. PA sources say Jabali was high on the list.

Little wonder, PA sources say, that Jabali was either chosen or volunteered to organize attacks against Israel. "Jabali was under pressure," a senior PA security source said. "If he wanted to stay, he had to do something, anything that would gain him popularity and do what he felt was Arafat's bidding." The rest was easy.

Massimi and Col. Munir Abushi, deputy police commander in Tulkarm, spent a lifetime planning terrorist attacks against Israel. Both spent many years in Israeli prisons. Massimi was deported by Israel in 1988 along with Jibril Rajoub, now head of the Palestinian Preventive Apparatus and regarded as the head of PA security in the West Bank. Abushi was a Fatah fugitive who fled abroad in 1992. Israel refused several Palestinian requests to allow him back into the territories. The request was finally granted early last year.

The three officers recruited were also Fatah activists looking to attack Israel. "Believe me, under no circumstances would these guys have listened to Jabali," a senior Palestinian police officer said. "In fact, Jabali can hardly tell anybody what to do. These guys did it because they wanted to." Abushi and the three PA officers are now in Israeli custody, and Massimi has been arrested by Arafat, who has appointed a panel to investigate the episode.

So where does that put the PA chief? Wadie Abu Nassar, a lecturer at the Open University who knows many Palestinian police commanders personally, favors the notion that Arafat simply didn't know. As he sees it, the attacks were the work of several poorly paid Palestinian policemen who wanted to show their friends in

the Islamic rejectionist movements that they, too, could fight Israel. "Many of the Palestinian policemen want to prove to Hamas and the local population that they are no less loyal than they are," Abu Nassar says. "There are also people inside the police who joined because they were sent by others to make trouble," he adds. "Some people exaggerate the importance of Arafat. It is true that he is the only decision-maker in the Palestinian arena. But he does not control things 100 percent."

Israeli security officials say at this point that they have found nothing in their investigation that has implicated Arafat as being involved in the attacks. One security official says he cannot imagine Arafat ordering such an amateurish operation that left a trail right back to Jabali. "He would have gotten somebody more professional," the official says.

Likud MK Gideon Ezra, former deputy head of the General Security Services, agrees. He says that except for Jabali, all the suspects in the attacks are local Palestinians rather than those Arafat brought with him from abroad. "The people from the outside are more ready to talk," Ezra says. "This is not a representative trend in the Palestinian police. We don't know of the connection

between Arafat and Jabali."

But both Palestinian and Israeli security sources quietly agree that Arafat is slowly turning up the flame of unrest in the territories. They say Rajoub executed Arafat's orders last month to recruit hundreds of students to throw stones, then firebombs and home-made bombs at Israeli soldiers in Hebron. Field organizers were paid about NIS 30 to NIS 40 daily, the sources say. Later, the

Israeli security officials say at this point that they have found nothing in their investigation that has implicated Arafat as being involved in the attacks.

violence escalated to Palestinians shooting at Israeli homes in that city. When the IDF prepared to retaliate massively, the unrest disappeared.

"There are days when the flames are high and there are days when the flames are small," GSS chief Ami Ayalon told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday. "It's all a question of timing." A senior Palestinian security source says Arafat would like the flames to rise even higher. The PA chief would love to repeat the September clashes against Israel,

an episode which prompted his popularity to skyrocket. But he realizes that the IDF is deployed outside West Bank cities and would retaliate heavily against any Palestinian attack.

Instead, the source says, Arafat "creates incidents. His aim is to shoot Israelis, particularly soldiers." Other Palestinian sources go further. They describe efforts by Fatah to organize squads all over the West Bank, ready to strike

that Arafat had given the green light for the Appropo cafe bombing in Tel Aviv. Nobody believed us." Instead, Israel has concentrated on pressuring Arafat to dismiss Jabali. Officials say this would send a message that anybody who attacks Israel under PA cover would be punished by Arafat himself.

The hope is that Brig-Gen. Haj Ismail, now head of the police in the West Bank, will replace Jabali. But such a step will not be easy. Already, tension is seething in Nablus in the wake of the arrested police officers. On Tuesday, 2,000 tried to storm Nablus prison where Massimi is being held. The protesters far outnumbered the 100 policemen guarding the compound. "The arrest of Fatah stragglers is a red line," Tayzir Nasrallah, a Fatah leader, says.

Both Palestinian and Israeli security sources say Arafat will not confront the protesters. His first priority is survival. Cabinet meetings have become stormy affairs, with Arafat accusing at least two of his ministers of being either spies or thieves, a senior Palestinian source says.

In this political no-fighting, even Israel has been drafted. A June 12 memo obtained by The Jerusalem Post from Civil Affairs Minister Jamil Tarifi to

Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Or, government coordinator for the territories, asks for the VIP status of two senior officials — one of them outgoing Tourism Minister Elias Freij — to be canceled. Their replacements are to be Nabil Amro and Mahmoud Natour, one of Arafat's security chiefs. This was the second such memo in the last two months.

Palestinian security chief Mussa Arafat reprimanded Tarifi, but PA officials were unimpressed. "The idea that Tarifi would actually ask for the cancellation of VIP status at a time when Palestinians are locked into Gaza and the West Bank is deplorable," a PA official says. "But there's no way that Tarifi would do this without orders from above, and that means Arafat."

But Arafat is determined to withstand the internal and external pressure. His aim is to sit tight at least until negotiations begin on the scheduled second IDF redeployment in the West Bank. The first redeployment was never implemented after Arafat rejected the extent of the Israeli pullback.

"Arafat is in a dilemma," the Open University's Abu Nassar says. "Arafat will not initiate violence. But he may give it the green light."

A Certain Man

The Palestinians are not yet ready for peace, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani tells Raine Marcus



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani: It's too early to judge whether the peace process is dead. The second redeployment... will be the acid test. (David Rubinger)

to the uncertain business of making the country safe for peace. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani is certain of one thing: Instead of preventing terror attacks on Israelis, the Palestinian Police commissioner, Brig-Gen. Ghazi Jabali, has himself been behind them. The recent arrests and confessions of three Palestinian policemen have helped cement that certainty.

"We have concrete evidence that Ghazi Jabali is responsible for organizing terror attacks against Israelis," Kahalani said in an interview this week. "I have no doubt as to the reliability of the evidence."

Kahalani can only conclude the Palestinians are not yet ready for peace.

"They are still living in the 1950s. They are still full of hatred toward us and apparently are not able to get rid of it," he said.

Turning from the Palestinian Authority to developments at home, the minister said he is pleased with the government's political ideology, including the insistence on continuing the controversial Her Homa construction, and the pursuit of a "secure peace."

As for the peace process itself, it is still too early to judge whether it is dead. "We have to wait

until...the second redeployment phase. That will be the acid test."

Kahalani, who was openly critical of his own police when he first assumed office, has more recently voiced his criticism of the government and the crises that have dogged it. He attributes these not to the Likud's ideological stance, but to party infighting. And the current lull is no indication the internal problems have been resolved.

"In the past I have said this government is committing political suicide because of the Likud's internal problems," he said. "At the moment, we are having a quiet week politically, but we cannot know what will happen next."

Despite urgings by his own party, The Third Way, toward a national unity government, this is not a viable option, because "only a few days ago [Labor Party leader Ehud Barak] talked about giving up the Golan," said Kahalani, a staunch opponent of returning the Golan Heights to Syria.

BEFORE LAST year's elections, Kahalani was approached by a Third Way activist from Ashkelon, who, he recalls, wanted to introduce him to "one of those people with the Mercedes and security guards." Apparently the mystery man was

considering a donation to the party. But, Kahalani said, "as soon as I heard the description, I refused."

The man turned out to be Zvi Ben-Ari, formerly Gregory Lerner, one of the alleged leaders of the so-called "Russian mafia," that is said to have engaged, among other things, in extensive money-laundering here and efforts to infiltrate and influence various levels of government, the media and the entertainment business.

Ben-Ari, who was arrested in May, is accused of a series of serious crimes, including \$85 million in bank fraud, the murder of a Russian banker and the bribing of civil servants and politicians here. He is also said to have donated money to one or more political parties, and police have started questioning politicians, including ministers, to learn if any of them were aware of the source of these contributions.

When speaking for the record, Kahalani avoids the term "Russian mafia," which immigrants from the CIS say stigmatizes them. Instead, he refers to "international" and "organized" crime. But police have found that much of the racketeering-type crime and international fraud does, in fact, involve former or current residents of the CIS.

Many criminals abroad have found Israel a convenient place to

launder money or invest it in both legitimate and criminal enterprises. This is because Israel, unlike many Western countries, has no regulations forcing the disclosure of sources of bank deposits or investments in private companies.

Ben-Ari's arrest may have thrown a wrench into some of these operations. Kahalani said several of those on a police list of 34 suspected organized-crime figures are now outside the country and afraid to return.

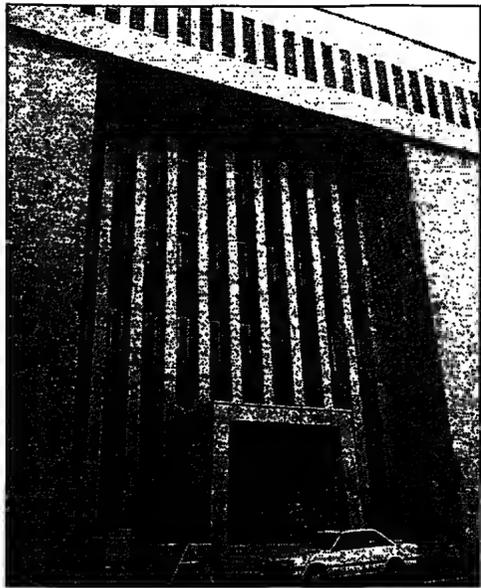
Contrary to police brass, who have recently complained the Russian authorities are afraid to cooperate in investigations for fear of reprisal, Kahalani said senior Russian officials are helping Israeli police.

In the fight against organized crime, two Israel Police representatives have been sent to the CIS, one to Russia and the other to Ukraine, and Kahalani said he hopes to send another officer to the area.

Kahalani's predecessor, Moshe Shahal, warned more than two years ago of the dangers of the "Russian mafia" infiltrating the political echelons, as well as the media and the entertainment business.

Battle of the judges

The national religious camp and the haredim are at loggerheads over the appointment of new rabbinical court judges. Dan Izenberg reports on what some are calling the fight for Israel's soul



If the fight for dayanim was the opening of a new frontier for the religious Zionists, the move from Heichal Shlomo was a setback of historic proportions. (Bryan McBurney)

There is nothing as old as yesterday's newspaper, or so the saying goes. But the National Religious Party is proving that there is nothing as old as yesterday's political crisis which one day threatens to bring down the government, and the next disappears in a puff of smoke.

So it was this week with the battle over the appointments of new judges (*dayanim*) to the country's district rabbinical courts. On Sunday, Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi reportedly urged his NRP faction to vote against the government in an opposition no-confidence motion. The following day, after the faction had lodged its ultimate protest by abstaining - thus assuring the government's survival - Bibi refused to discuss the issue.

Not that the matter is closed, according to Yitzhak Rath, a senior adviser to Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (NRP). "We will pursue it through quieter channels and, in the end, we will get our way."

In objective terms, the National Religious Party certainly has something to complain about.

According to NRP Secretary-

General Zevulun Orlev, the 11-person dayanim election committee was to have selected three dayanim to complete the full roster of 89 dayanim who man 11 district rabbinical courts and the Jerusalem-based Supreme Rabbinical Court. The election committee is headed by the minister of religious affairs and includes representatives of the government and the Knesset, the Ashkenazi and Sephardi chief rabbis, the Bar Association, and the rabbinical courts.

According to Orlev, Shas exploited the fact that its representative, Interior Minister Eli Suissa, is currently also the religious affairs minister to increase the number of appointments to six. In less than a month, according to a rotation agreement between Shas and the

NRP, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer is due to take over the Religious Affairs portfolio.

Three months ago, a dayanim election subcommittee selected the shortlist of 10 outstanding candidates from among 58 rabbis who were eligible to become dayanim after passing a special examination given by the Chief Rabbinate. Six of the 10 were religious Zionists.

But last week, in the formal vote, the committee plenum chose only one of the six. It selected three of the four haredim on the shortlist and two other haredim who were not among the top 10.

According to Rath, the last two were appointed at the request of Shas religious mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

Attorney Shoshana Glass, a Bar

Association representative on the election committee, said there was no truth to the NRP charges. "The only thing that concerned me was to choose the best candidates for the bench," she said. "I didn't ask the subcommittee to tell me the affiliations of each of the candidates. We sat a long time with each one, and chose the best."

Glass added, however, that the committee was presented with a second group of candidates in addition to the group of 10 selected by the subcommittee. "The chief rabbis decided that they must also be taken into consideration," she said, without elaboration.

Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, the director of the Rabbinical Courts, confirmed that six of the 10 short-listed candidates were religious Zionists and that only one of them was elected. He also confirmed that two of the haredim chosen were not on the shortlist. Asked why the committee had acted as it had, Ben-Dahan replied: "That was what they decided. The subcommittee's recommendations were not inviolable."

NRP spokesmen deny that the fight for more dayanim is a battle for political patronage and power. They claim it is a fight for Israel's soul.

"Shas is a haredi party," said Orlev. "That means it does not regard the State of Israel as part of the spiritual process, does not recognize political sovereignty as a major factor in religious faith, does not regard Israel as a stage in the redemption of the Jewish people."

"Shas sees itself as belonging to the haredi world which means being secluded, growing up in a world of Torah, rabbis, and dayanim who are concerned above all with the integrity of their own spiritual world and are not prepared to pay the price of involvement with the nation as a whole."

According to Orlev, a movement which cuts itself off from society cannot produce suitable dayanim. "Should a dayan be someone who grew up in a haredi yeshiva and kollel, cut off from mixed society who knows nothing about the culture of the general population and has never rubbed shoulders with anyone outside the four walls of the yeshiva?" he asked. "Or should it be someone who has acquired general knowledge in a yeshiva high school, lives in a mixed neighborhood and has served in the army with people from all sectors of the nation?"

Surprisingly, although the NRP enjoyed a monopoly over the country's state-religious institutions for almost 40 years, it is fighting for no more than a foothold in the dayanim roster. According to Ben-Dahan, only 10 percent of today's dayanim are Zionists.

Until seven years ago, the religious Zionist movement had not produced rabbis learned enough to qualify as dayanim. It was the same in the religious Zionist school system, where, until a generation ago, almost all the teachers and yeshiva heads were haredim.

"In the meantime," said Rath, "a tremendous generation of rabbis and educators has sprung up. Today, there are no new haredi teachers or yeshiva heads in our institutions. The same is true of dayanim. Once upon a time it was all haredi. In the meantime, we have raised a generation of dayanim. They must not be held back."

MK Avraham Ravitz (Degel Hatorah) said the NRP's demand to appoint religious Zionist dayanim was "inappropriate when it comes to the judicial system. It is an argument that denies the special status of the dayanim. We must choose the most learned, the most pious and the most honest for this position. After all, when a dayan has to refer to the Talmudic tractate, *Gittin*, would he make a distinction between a blue-and-white [Zionist] divorce and a black [haredi] divorce? That would be a big mistake."

Ravitz added that he had no doubt there were many more suitable haredi candidates for the rabbinical bench than religious Zionists if only for the fact that there are so many more haredi yeshiva students. But he also implied that haredi rabbis were more pious and learned, and cared more about Jewish law than the religious Zionists.

The fight over the dayanim erupted a few weeks after the two chief rabbis, Yisrael Meir Lau and Elishav Bakshi-Doron, moved their offices from Heichal Shlomo to a new building near the entrance to Jerusalem, close to the city's main haredi neighborhoods. If the fight for dayanim was the opening of a new frontier for the religious Zionists, the move from Heichal Shlomo was a setback of historic proportions.

From the moment it was conceived in the early 1950s, Heichal

Shlomo was destined to be the seat of the chief rabbis. The building was synonymous with the Chief Rabbinate and the Chief Rabbinate, created in the spirit of Rabbi Avraham Yitzhak Hacohen Kook, Israel's first Ashkenazi chief rabbi, was synonymous with religious Zionism.

"The directors of Heichal Shlomo are absolutely certain that the chief rabbis abandoned the building for ideological reasons," said one senior NRP official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The current chief rabbis are not among those who identify themselves absolutely and exclusively with religious Zionism."

That is an understatement. Bakshi-Doron is a follower of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. Lau has close ties with the haredi world and roots in the Agudat Yisrael movement. Both sent their children to haredi schools.

But NRP leaders are careful not to publicly attack the chief rabbis for fear of throwing out the baby with the bathwater. They do not want to harm the institution of the Chief Rabbinate itself, which, as one official put it, is the "embodiment of high-minded statehood, the link between state and religion." Their quarrel - so far - is with those who currently occupy the office. According to the anonymous NRP official, Lau and



The NRP's Zevulun Orlev: 'Shas...does not regard the State of Israel as part of the spiritual process.'

(Ariel Jerolimski)

Bakshi-Doron, by their choice of dayanim and municipal rabbis and their decision to move out of Heichal Shlomo, have demonstrated their haredi sympathies.

One way of pressing their dissatisfaction with Lau and Bakshi-Doron could be by installing the former chief rabbis, Avraham Shapira and Mordechai Eliahu - both resoundingly identified with the NRP - in the Heichal Shlomo offices they occupied for 10 years. That is one of several options currently being considered by the seven-person Board of Directors of Heichal Shlomo.



UTJ MK Avraham Ravitz calls the NRP's demand for religious Zionist judges 'inappropriate...' (Isaac Harari)

headed by former NRP minister of religious affairs Zerafud Warhaftig.

The world knows that the chief rabbis occupy Heichal Shlomo," said the anonymous official. "If they have left the building, then let the former chief rabbis sit there instead."

Ravitz made it clear that the haredi community is pleased that the chief rabbis moved out of Heichal Shlomo. "From the beginning, the building was meant to serve as a symbol of Jewish revival," said Ravitz, who recalled that the haredim boycotted Heichal Shlomo after it was first opened in 1956, because there was talk of resurrecting the Sanhedrin and housing it in the building.

"Heichal Shlomo was so big and beautiful, that they attributed to it things it was not," said Ravitz. "Because for some, the building is a positive symbol and for others a negative symbol, it is a good thing that the chief rabbis moved to a nondescript building. We should not sanctify stones."

Since the Yom Kippur War, the religious Zionists have regarded themselves as embarking on a long and difficult journey towards national revival. Now, they suddenly find themselves being overtaken by elements in the religious community which - as they see it - have not even participated in the journey.

ועד הפעולה של הקהילות המשיחיות בישראל The Messianic Congregational Action Committee

The Honorable Prime Minister of Israel
Mr Benjamin Netanyahu
The Prime Minister's office
3, Kaplan Street
Jerusalem 91919

25 July 1997

Re: The Religious Censorship Bill

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

On the 19th of February bill a was introduced in the Knesset, amending the Penal Code of 1977 (174c). The bill proposes: "any who possess without legal sanction or prints or copies or distributes or hands out or imports or makes public material in which there is any form of enticement to a change of religion shall be subject to one year s imprisonment. A leaflet or (any form of) publicity material in which there is any form of enticement to a change of religion will be confiscated". The Government did not oppose the bill except by way of a weak statement. It was supported by two senior cabinet ministers.

Prime Minister, you undoubtedly are aware of the implications such a bill would have on the foundations of democracy in our State. The bill transgresses our Basic Law : Man s Dignity and Freedom, international conventions to which our country is signatory and our Declaration of Independence. This bill proposes to limit the freedom of speech in Israel. It arrogates the right to determine for the Israeli public what literature it may read, under pain of imprisonment. It proposes to establish in Israel a religious and political censorship and to restrict freedom of expression at it's most delicate point: the freedom of religious expression.

The opposition of many in the country to this bill, as seen in the attached Gallup poll, is understandable. A true democracy is measured by the majority's attitude to the minority - not by the privileges which the majority accords itself. Some 5,000 Messianic Jews live in Israel today. They are faithful citizens of the State, maintain its laws, pay taxes and serve in the IDF. Although we are a minority, our struggle is just and enjoys the support of many, including Knesset Members and ministers in your cabinet who have expressed their support in various ways.

Prime Minister, you are aware of views prevalent in the American public and in Europe. You know how wide a support there is for Israel among Jewish Messianics and evangelical Christians throughout the world. The proposed law threatens that support, as can be learnt from the tens of thousands of protests that have arrived from all over the world. How do you imagine they will respond when they learn that the liberties of those whose share their faith are subject to undemocratic restrictions and that their literature is forbidden?

You have committed yourself and your Government to strenuously opposing the bill in question. We here note for the record that nothing less than its complete rejection should be acceptable. Like peace, democracy is indivisible

As the Prime Minister of all the nation and as one who is sincerely committed to the principles of democracy and their defence, there is need for you to take up an active, public stand against the present effort to limit freedom of expression. We call upon you to issue an appeal to the Knesset to work for the bill's rejection. By this you will demonstrate your support of Israel's democratic principles and your defence of the right of every minority to live according to its conscience, as is true in all the world s democracies and has been the case in our country - to date.

With all due respect.

The Messianic Congregational Action Committee

Help wanted in Kiryat Malachi

Statistics show that unemployment is rising, but some officials maintain that there is plenty of work – for those who want it, Larry Derfner reports

Naftali Asoulin, who hires unskilled workers for factories, was getting no takers Tuesday morning outside the unemployment office in Kiryat Malachi, a development town at the northern edge of the Negev. "I don't blame them. The jobs pay minimum wage plus about a shekel. You can't feed a family on that," he says.

Jobs are scarcer and scarcer in Kiryat Malachi, Asoulin says, ticking off three factories in the industrial zone that have closed in recent months – the Gottex and Ofat Baruch textile plants, and Parplast, which made plastic bottles.

"Companies like these have to pay Israeli workers about \$800 or \$900 a month, so they move to Egypt or Jordan where they can pay \$150," he explains.

Waiting to go into the unemployment office, Albert Shahar notes that his son, Yitzhak, once got a job from Asoulin. Yitzhak has been working on and off for the last few years, "making peanuts," his father says, trying to feed a family of four. Now Yitzhak is a gardener at the sports center in Hafetz Haim, but, his father says, "they're going to fire him soon." Albert himself lost his job as a security guard four months ago. He looks for work, but says he's not sure he can find it.

Last month, the unemployment rate in Kiryat Malachi, a town of about 22,000 people, hit 10.3 percent. It was one of four

towns whose unemployment rate went into double figures at the same time. Now there are 13 of them. Ofakim, another Negev development town, tops the list with 15% jobless.

After falling from roughly 11% to 6% between 1993 and 1996, Israel's unemployment rate has been going steadily back up over the last year, and now stands at approximately 7.5%. It will go even higher by the end of the year, the Finance Ministry forecast last week.

The reasons, according to the report, are that the economy is just naturally slowing down after a half-decade of explosive growth; the government and Bank of Israel, aiming to keep inflation in check, are tightening the flow of money into the economy; the building industry has been hurt by the slowdown in immigration, and tourism and foreign investment have been damaged by the faltering peace process.

But at Migash Sofer, a falafel joint frequented by the long-term unemployed in Kiryat Malachi, the reasons offered are simpler: Firstly, the Netanyahu government, after being elected on the strength of development-town voters, has abandoned them, and secondly, the nearby moshavim which used to hire Kiryat Malachi residents as farm workers now prefer imported Thais because they're cheaper.

About a half-dozen men are sitting at the outdoor tables, drinking coffee and grousing. It's a scene repeated in every development town, a cliché of the Israeli underclass, but a living cliché.

Haim Ohayon, 41, unshaven, says he used to sell produce in the local market, but fell into debt a few years ago and lost his business. "Now," he says, "instead of looking for work, I look for things to steal."

"We used to be the moshavim's cheap labor but now the

Thais, Romanians and Arabs are cheaper," says Lalou Ategi, 37, a handyman who's been out of work for two years.

Ategi says he used to be "hard-core Likud." Like over 70% of the locals, he voted for Netanyahu. He expected that his fortunes would rise with the new government. "Now, for all I care, Arafat can come and take over," Ategi says.

The men complain that the local council doesn't do anything for the town or for them, that nobody tries to attract business to the area. Last week, there was a ceremony marking Kiryat Malachi's upgrading from local authority to city status. "City of the dead," snorts Ohayon.

A man in his 60s with a walrus mustache is sitting alone at a nearby table, drinking coffee. "Everything they're telling you – it's a sham," he says. "They make me sick. There are plenty of jobs, but they don't want to work. They're drug addicts, criminals, parasites, garbage."

"Hey, what are you talking about?" demands Ohayon, getting up from his seat.

"Tell me, when did you ever work in your whole life?" says the man with the mustache, getting up too.

"I've got a disability, my back."

"I only wish you should have the diseases I've got." "Liar."

"What did you say?" shouts the mustachioed man, advancing on Ohayon, slapping at him, until onlookers break up the fight.

"Don't listen to that guy – he's still nuts about the Likud," says Ategi.

In the housing blocks of the Kiryat Malachi's Herzl neighborhood, unemployment is common. Yitzhak Asoulin, 62, is sitting in his shorts, shirtless, barefoot, watching TV in his living room. He has worked in five years, since being laid off as a sign painter for the IDF, and can't find anyone to hire him. He lives on NIS 1,400 a month in income supplements, plus the help he and his wife get from a couple of their grown children. Yet Asoulin still supports Netanyahu, for political reasons. "He doesn't give away everything to the Arabs, he stands his ground," he says.

Asoulin's daughter, a graphic artist in her early 20s, is sitting in her housedress – she's been cut back to one day a week's work at a local newspaper.

She's applied for a job at a printing house at NIS 2,300 a month, but doesn't get her hopes up. "For every job, there are 10 takers," she says.

Most of her friends have left or are leaving Kiryat Malachi for the Tel Aviv area, where there is work, and she may end up doing the same – with her parents' blessing. But she doesn't blame Netanyahu either. "It's always been bad in Kiryat Malachi," she says.

The conservative economic policy being followed by the government – budget cuts, tax cuts and privatization – have always been associated with ris-



Yitzhak Asoulin, has not worked for five years and can't find anyone to hire him; his daughter may soon leave Kiryat Malachi. (Jonathan Bloom)



Lalou Ategi, out of work for two years, used to be hardcore Likud. 'Now, for all I care, Arafat can come and take over,' he says. (Jonathan Bloom)



The NRP's Zevulun...



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Putting the pieces together

Was Qumran a desert fortress, a trading post, or a quarantine station? Fifty years after the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the scholarly debate rages, Abraham Rabinovich writes

They were such a delicious mystery, those scrolls that emerged from the caves of Qumran 50 years ago with Hebrew and Aramaic script legible enough after 2,000 years to be read by a schoolboy. After half a century of research by an ever-growing rank of scholars, the initial mystery has not been resolved. It has, in fact, deepened.

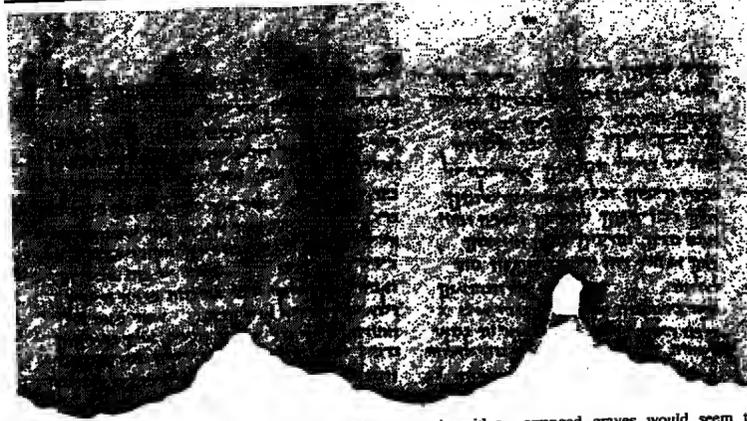
In Jerusalem this week, the largest congress on the Dead Sea Scrolls ever held confirmed that we have learned much from those intriguing documents about the development of Judaism and the shaping of Christianity, but know less today about who wrote the scrolls and what went on at Qumran than we thought we knew when the scrolls first came to light. There was no uncertainty among the scholars themselves: it was the sharply conflicting nature of their certainties — the inability to come to anything approaching a consensus — that left the layman more puzzled than ever.

Like an archeological Barbie doll, the ruins of Qumran were dressed by successive speakers as an isolated religious retreat, a busy trading post and port, a desert fortress, a wealthy manor house, a quarantine station. Some believed that many or most of the scrolls had been composed or copied at Qumran. Others maintained that all were brought from elsewhere. Estimates of Qumran's population

ranged from 50 or less to 150 or more. Some maintained that most of Qumran's inhabitants lived in tents and caves. Others, on the same evidence, dismissed that notion out of hand. One estimate placed the founding of the Qumran community 50 years earlier than the accepted date. Another placed it 100 years later. For the first time, the year of Qumran's demise, heretofore a rare point of agreement, was challenged.

It had all seemed so clear at the beginning. The thesis set forth by the excavator of Qumran, Roland de Vaux, was that the building complex was a monastery of the Essenes, an ascetic Jewish sect, who wrote the scrolls over the course of some 200 years and hid them in the surrounding caves at the approach of the Roman army in 68 CE. There was convincing historical and archeological evidence for this scenario and it was, for a while, universally accepted.

Over the years, however, new scenarios have been advanced by other scholars. What follows, in quasi-dialogue form, are some of the contending views offered during the week-long congress. Yizhar Hirschfeld of the Hebrew University: "It seems likely that Qumran was a fortified manor house from which the lord or his representative oversaw the adjacent lands." King Herod had distributed estates to relatives and friends and a number of manor houses strikingly



ly similar to Qumran have been excavated in Judea. He himself has excavated one near Caesarea. The Essenes? They may have lived on the fringe of the manor house and provided cheap labor.

Magen Broshi, former curator of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum and a supporter of Pere de Vaux's mainstream scenario: "Manor house? In such a godforsaken place? Nothing grows there." Hirschfeld: "Not so. There were date palms, expensive balsam, asphalt from the Dead Sea."

Joseph Patrick of the University of Haifa, who has surveyed the caves of the Judean Desert: "The suggestion by Broshi and Hirschfeld, who excavated outside the Qumran ruins in 1996, that most of the population lived around a motherhouse in tents and caves is unsubstantiated by their finds. Permanent tent encampments in the desert leave clear signs detectable even after millennia, like cleared areas and circles of stones to hold the tents."

"There are no such signs at Qumran. The potsherds they found were probably left by shepherds. As for the caves, there is no sign they were used as permanent habitations. Their walls were not plastered to reduce dust or furnished with cisterns and other amenities as were the cave hermitages inhabited by Byzantine monks elsewhere in the Judean Desert."

Why should a community with a well-built center let most of its members live for more than a century in bumble huts and fragile tents that befit nomadic societies, rather than in solid dwellings?"

However, while agreeing with Hirschfeld that the residents of Qumran all lived inside the walled structure — both reckoned that they numbered no more than 50 — Patrick agreed with Broshi and Eshel on the central point that Qumran housed a religious sect.

According to Broshi, the caves, cool in summer and warm in winter, were the ideal solution to the cruel climate at Qumran. Within the compound, there were only 80 square meters of living space (after sewage facilities, industrial installations and other features are discounted). This would leave room for no more than 12 people at best. "How could we be able to make Qumran, if only a dozen people lived there?" Devorah Dimant of the University of Haifa: "There are few today who will contest the conclusion that the [scrolls] belonged to the inhabitants of the Qumran settlement. Firm factual evidence ties the caves to the site, namely similar jars in both places and the physical proximity of the caves to the building. Like most scholars, I subscribe to the view that the Qumran site was settled by a community of Essenes, or a similar group."

Norman Golb, University of Chicago, leading advocate of the school which denies any connection between Qumran and the Essenes or between the building and the scrolls in the nearby caves: "No hard evidence has ever been discovered [in the Qumran building complex] which might organically link the activities of its inhabitants with the scrolls found in the caves. No parchments, no bona-fide tables, no writing instruments of scribes have ever been found." Hirschfeld: "The similarity between the distinctive jars found at Qumran and those housing scrolls in the caves can be attributed to the owner of the manor making jars available to the outsiders who placed the scrolls in the caves."

Jodi Magness of Tufts University: "It is false to deduce that the absence of scrolls in the building means that it was unconnected to the scrolls in the caves. There were two large fires in the Qumran complex, which would have destroyed any scrolls there, one at the time of its abandonment. The presence of ritual baths attests to Qumran's sectarian [that is, associated with a religious sect] nature."

Ronnie Reich of the Israel Antiquities Authority: "The unusually large number of water facilities at Qumran were indeed ritual baths. There were at least 10 of them, and not cisterns or ordinary baths as has been contended."

Golb: "At least 300 different handwriting samples in the 800 texts at Qumran. This large number of samples supports his contention that the scrolls' origin was in the libraries of Jerusalem, including the Temple library, rather than in this small desert outpost. 'The Jews of the capital would have gone to considerable lengths to hide away the treasures kept in its libraries, prior to the tightening of the Roman siege.'" Prof. Emanuel Tov, editor-in-chief of the Dead Sea Scrolls publication, states that a sizable minority of the Qumran scrolls, at least 130, are from a distinct scribal school which can be ascribed to Qumran.

Golb: "The site was a military fortress on a strategic position overlooking the northern half of the Dead Sea. The defenders succumbed to the Roman invaders. Arrowheads were found and other signs of battle. The bodies in the adjacent graveyard, with its 1,100 graves, are neatly buried in rows as in a military cemetery."

Rahel Hachlili of Haifa University: "Dead warriors would have been buried in a mass grave, not individually as at Qumran. The carefully dug and thoughtfully

arranged graves would seem to rule out Golb's argument that there was a mass burial after a battle. The burial customs at Qumran are fundamentally different from those practiced by normative Judaism and reflect a distinctive community. Instead of burying the dead in family tombs as in Jerusalem and elsewhere, individual burial was carried out. The remains of women and children were found in fringe

burial areas but the 53 bodies exhumed in the main cemetery were all of males. [Some Essene groups lived as celibates.] The finds at the cemetery reinforce the thesis that the Qumran community was a separate Jewish sect."

Prof. Alan Crown, University of Sydney, Australia: "The identification of Qumran as an Essene center stems in large part from Pliny the Elder, the first-century CE historian who wrote that the town of Ein Gedi was situated 'below' where the Essenes lived. This has been interpreted as meaning 'to the south of' and Ein Gedi is south of Qumran. But in Pliny's writings he uses cardinal points like north and south to indicate direction, not 'below.' In using that word, Pliny meant that the Essene settlement was at a higher altitude than Ein Gedi, not north of it."

"Qumran was not an isolated retreat for a religious sect but a busy trading node. The level of the Dead Sea was higher then and there was probably a wharf at Qumran to serve trading craft known to have plied the waters. 'What and sheep from the rich estates of Moab and Edom to the east would have been shipped across the waters of the Dead Sea to the Qumran region for sale with balsam, herbs and anointing oil in the production of the cosmetics and medicaments for which the region was famous.'"

The site would also have served as a quarantine station for those travelers suspected of having come down with plague. The large cemetery was filled by those who did not recover."

Ya'acov Meshorer, numismatist of the Israel Museum: "The dating of Qumran's demise to 68 CE because of the absence there of coins from the Jewish revolt after that date is misleading. Two coins struck in 72/3 were found at the site, presumably left by Roman troops who had conquered Jerusalem in 70. But the coins found on Masada are from exactly the same years as at Qumran and we know that Masada fell only in 73 CE. We are under the impression that Qumran reached its end at the same time Masada did."

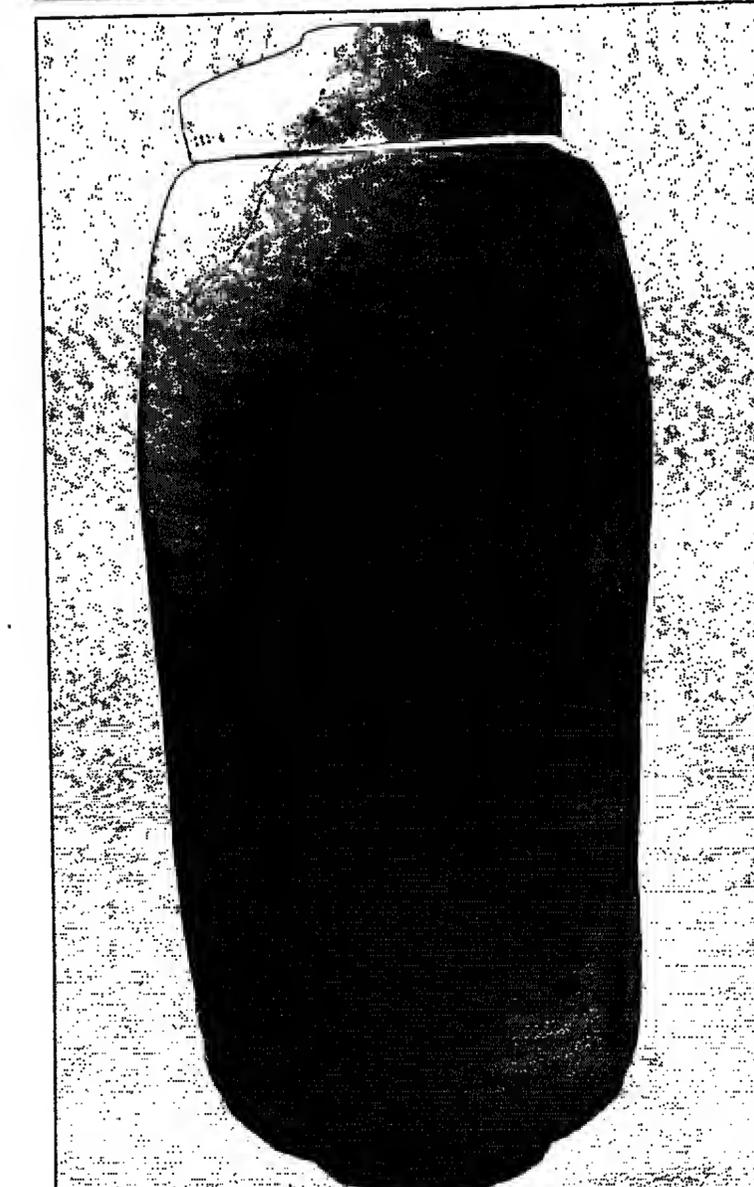
If Meshorer's interpretation is accepted, it would place a new light on the Copper Scroll which gives the locations — never yet determined — of hidden treasure, presumed by some to be the treasures of the temple. Many scholars have dismissed this scroll as fantasy. In part because it was believed that Qumran fell two years before Jerusalem was besieged and that the scroll would presumably not have been taken out of Jerusalem yet.

Mesbore's new reading will permit treasure hunters to take up their divining rods with renewed enthusiasm. Other scholars, however, express serious doubt that the Romans would not have taken Qumran on their way to Jerusalem.

Apart from the debate on the Qumran site, more than 100 lectures were delivered on the scroll contents which continue to offer up brilliant light on the formative centuries of rabbinic Judaism and early Christianity even as their authors remain hidden in the shadows whispering secrets as yet unheard.



Newsphoto/Aviv



Clockwise from top: a fragment of the Habakkuk Commentary; a tightly rolled scroll found by Prof. Yigal Yadin; a clay time capsule in which scrolls were stored; desert documents exposed at Qumran



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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Democracy, George Bernard Shaw once said, substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few.

Stanley Gold, Benny Gaon and Jonathan Kolber - leaders of the Shamrock, Koor and Claridge conglomerates, respectively - couldn't agree more.

Deeply alarmed by the voters' decision last year tooust Shimon Peres, the three otherwise sedate businessmen respoonded with panic, replacing discussion of yields, rates and balance sheets with lamentations, sermons and doomsday prophecies about the demise of the Jewish state.

Dipping into a rather shallow bag of metaphors, Gaon said Netanyahu's victory had left disenchanted foreign investors "with loaded returns," Kolber decried Israel's "Bosnia" image, and Gold - a Reform Jew - said the introduction of the Conversion bill had made Israel a "second Iran," where no foreign investor would want to set foot.

Though the disenchantment behind these assertions is legitimate, and even plausible, it was - and remains - irrelevant in Kolber's case, pathetic in Gaon's and downright rude in Gold's.

Unlike his two partners in the deal that rocked the local busi-

ness community this week - Kolber's purchase of Gold's stake in Gaon's Koor for \$374 million - Kolber had no personal axe to grind during all those months of crying wolf. The only problem with his attitude is that events unfolded in a markedly different way from the scenarios he had portrayed.

When, a year ago, he withdrew abruptly from the Bank Hapoalim tender, in which his group had been the leading contender, Kolber reflected business leaders' prevailing expectation of a severe recession and depressed financial markets. But soon after that withdrawal, the markets picked up and Hapoalim's shares shot up 70 percent.

The markets, of course, are but aggregates of human decisions and as such are prone to misconstruct reality severely. But then, so was Kolber, who this week spent one of the heftiest weeks ever seen here, even while the political landscape seemed just as murky as that he had bemoaned so loudly just a year ago.

WHILE CLARIDGE'S deal proved Kolber's Bosnia analogy unfounded, it shed an altogether embarrassing light on Gold.

A Californian trustee of the Hebrew Union College, Gold rushed in, in the heat of the post-Oslo regional-business fever, to buy roughly a fifth of Israel's largest holding company for \$250m.

Surely, there was nothing wrong with Gold's attitude. It reflected a long-overdue replacement of American Jewish philanthropic paternalism, with a Wall Street-bred, investor-asset rela-

tionship of a Diaspora millionaire with his ancestral land.

The only problem was that from a business point of view, Gold's move was hasty and superficial. Being the short-term type of investor, Gold sought in Koor a quick yield that would compete with New York's red-hot financial markets. And, infected by Peres's and Gaon's economic messianism, he was sure the Middle East was a new El Dorado where Israel would be heart, compass and beacon, and where the Jewish state's largest industrial entity - Koor - would offer a major key to a major emerging market.

Gaon, too, was plagued by this misconception: believing the region to be on the brink of Benelux-type business harmony, he led Koor into ill-advised adventures in the tourism industry.

Meanwhile, deluding himself that a New Middle East would be Koor's salvation, he failed to produce plans that could have persuaded the markets he had solutions for the conglomerate's real ailments: over-reliance on one asset (cement producer Nesher) and one client (Bezeq), both of them increasingly vulnerable monopolies.

The naivete behind all this became alarmingly apparent in the waning months of the Peres government, when Arab business leaders failed to fund regional development projects following the wave of terrorist attacks that led to his downfall. Today it is clear the Middle East's economic transfiguration, though long overdue, is still perceived as a threat by most Arab elites, who

fear the freedoms it would entail and are often indifferent to the region's endemic poverty.

Gaon and Gold failed to forecast what financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic were saying all along: The New Middle East, though a noble vision, would take a little longer to establish than a high-tech start-up in Herzliya.

BUT GOLD, true to his post-philanthropic tenets, and like any good investor, needed his yields, the very ones the peace-intoxicated Gaon failed to deliver.

And so, having increasingly felt Gold breathing down his neck, Gaon suddenly began talking about returns. And Gold, for his part, having waited in vain for Koor's shares to appreciate, rather than taking blame for a lousy investment, reverted to the old philanthropic paternalism and began telling us what's wrong with our country.

That was both unfair and disingenuous.

Liberal Israelis, like this one, who languish in the trenches fighting fanatic theocrats and tunnel-visioned nationalists, deserve better than the addition of a speculator's personal gambles to the concoctions we - unlike Gold - are regularly served by our assorted reactionaries.

The Conversion Law stinks. But even if shackled to a dozen others like it, this country would still be light-years away from Iran. And Gold knows that.

Moreover, any one familiar with emerging markets knows full well that not one of them is politi-

cally perfect, and that's an understatement. From Russia to Brazil and from China to Ghana, the world's most exciting markets often flourish in moral black holes, and yet foreign investors flock to them. Gold surely knows that too.

Finally, according to the deal he struck this week, Gold is shedding his Koor holding with a profit of some \$124m, or 50% - which reflects Koor's potential to leap into brighter horizons under Kolber's newly sober, post-New Middle East leadership. In other words, despite the Conversion Law and the stalled peace process, brisk business can still be done here, and the Gold-Gaon-Kolber trio can attest to that more than anyone else.

Back in the early 1700s, French investors bet heavily through the Compagnie d'Occident, on Louisiana's ostensibly abundant gold deposits, while British speculators spent fortunes on the shares of the South Sea Company, which they were sure would exploit South America's riches.

Ultimately, when traders learned Louisiana had no gold and that Spain had refused British vessels access to its American ports, both the Paris and London stock markets crashed resoundingly.

The Americas were, of course, lucrative investment destinations, but those early approaches at them were infected with the frivolity and ignorance that often characterize short-term speculation. So was this decade's New Middle East mania, and nothing was more emblematic of it than the Koor-Shamrock adventure.

Stanley's Gold

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

A righteous zealot

Parshat Pinchas

Regarding our question about Pinhas and his "gift" of priesthood, commentators offer different explanations. Rashi, apparently affirming Pinhas's action, understands the gift from a chronological point of view, noting that the priesthood had already been given to Aaron, his sons, and their children. But Pinhas, who was born earlier, was not included in the priesthood. Rashi then quotes from the Talmud: "Pinhas did not merit the priesthood until he killed Zimri." (B.T. Zevachim 101h).

In effect, according to Rashi, the priesthood was Pinhas's reward for preventing adultery and intermarriage. In changing the course of future generations, he was rewarded with a gift for his own future descendants.

The commentary *Moshav Z'kenim* has a more negative approach, and this from a religious perspective. Since we know from the Talmud that a priest with blood on his hands cannot participate in the priestly blessing ceremony (B.T. Brachot 32b), upon killing Zimri, Pinhas would have lost his priesthood, "never again to bring a sacrifice."

Despite the fact that the zealot may have had only the purest of intentions, killing changes one's priestly status.

How can hands that once killed then be held aloft during the priestly blessing? Nevertheless, God makes an exception in the case of Pinhas, and despite his murder awards him the covenant of eternal priesthood.

The Netziv (Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin, 1817-1893) in his commentary *Ho'amek Dovor* goes one step further. He acknowledges that anyone who kills, even justifiably, grows harsher and less sensitive, suffering a stain on his soul. Thus Pinhas receives these two gifts: first, a covenant of peace, a guarantee that he will not be tainted by his own act, and second, the eternal priesthood, which reconnects him to Aaron, the archetypal pursuer of peace. The Almighty is in effect entreating Pinhas the zealot to re-connect with Aaron the peacemaker, true patriarch of the priesthood.

I believe this is the true meaning of the blessing which serves as an introduction to the priestly benediction (*birkat kohanim*). The priest-leader is ultimately responsible to and for the entire nation, and he may well see the necessity - as did Pinhas - of committing an act of zealotry.

The blessing reminds us that even if that is the case, whatever one does he must do out of love for his people. As Rav Haim, the famed Rav of Brisk was wont to say: Two creatures destroy mice - housewives and cats.

But whereas the first does so out of love and concern for her household, and genuinely wishes there were no mice, the second looks for mice in order to eat them. The priest-leader must look at transgressors with the eyes of the housewife, not those of the cat.

The priest's blessing conveys a crucial message to the priests of every generation: Be like Aaron, and not like Pinhas; emphasize love and peace over zealotry and strife.

Shabbat Shalom

There's much in a name

Conservative Judaism magazine, xxxiii, 2, Winter 1980).

Peter Schlemihl sells his shadow in the devil for the purse that is always filled with cash. But he is miserable, spending the rest of his time wandering from land to land in search of his shadow. Finally, a fellow traveler on whose heel he steps gives him a giant blow and he ends up in a hospital where he is "called Number 12 and by virtue of his long beard passed off as a Jew."

"Shlumiel," according to the talmudic Sages, was one of the five names, and the real name, of Zimri son of Salu who led the idolatrous sexual orgy with the Moabite and Midianite women (Numbers 25; *Sanhedrin* 82b and *Midrash Tanhuma*, "Pinhas" 2).

Chiel writes: "[I]t was Zimri/Shlumiel who had the ill fortune of being singled out from among the Israelites who had sinned..." The Sages asserted that Aaron's grandson Pinhas "killed Zimri/Shlumiel by way of example for [the Jews'] wholesale wrongdoing."

"Shlumiel" turns up again "as the [name of] the luckless husband dealt with in a medieval responsum. [He] is reported to have returned home after a year's absence only to find that his wife had given birth to a child." Although the rabbi found a way of ruling that the child was not a *mamzer*, the husband was regarded as a cuckold by his neighbors, to whom he became a laughingstock.

Chamisso's younger contemporary, Heinrich Heine, went to Berlin to ask Chamisso about the derivation of "Schlemihl." The poet referred him to Julius Eduard Hitzig (formerly Hitzig), author, publisher, criminologist, and Chamisso's biographer.

Heine reports Hitzig's reply in a poem, "Jebuda ben Halevy": "...But carried by word of mouth / Is the popular tradition / That it wasn't really Zimri / Whom Pinhas's spear struck, / But the latter, blind with fury, / In the sinner's place

inadvertently killed / An utterly guiltless person, Schlemihl ben Zuri Schadday / He, then, this Schlemihl the First, / Is the beggetter of the / Race of Schlemihls. We're descended / From Schlemihl ben Zuri Schadday." (The translation is mine.)

Just as Chamisso's *Peter Schlemihl* is said to be an allegory of the author's sense of himself as a stranger, so, Chiel suggests, may "Jehuda ben Halevy" be an allegory of all poets, of Heine himself.

Incidentally - or perhaps not - Hitzig and Heine both were Jews who converted to Christianity.

AT THE recent graduation ceremony of my granddaughter's State Religious school eighth-grade class, the children presented a dramatization of "Yad Vashem," the classic short story by Aharon Meged *Yisroel Hoverim*, Hakhitbutz Hameuhad, 1955).

It tells of a young sabra couple, Raya and Yehuda, who are expecting a baby and categorically refuse the plea of Ziskind, father of Raya's mother, Rahel, that they name the child after another grandson in the Holocaust. They plan to give the baby "Israeli" names: Ehud if a boy, and Osmat if a girl.

Whenever they visit Grandpa Ziskind, he takes out the packet containing photos, letters and other mementos of his son, who had remained in the Soviet Union with his family, and especially of that son's brilliant son, Mendele, and he repeatedly rehearses the same anecdotes about them, especially Mendele. He ignores Raya's reminders that they have heard the stories many times.

When Rahel pleads her father's case for "Mendele," Yehuda says: "What a crazy idea! The boy would be miserable all his life!"

Raya adds: "It's a *gofuti* [exile] name, an ugly name, an awful name!... Do you want me to hate my child?... It would be like having a child with a hunchback!..."

I'm not about to sacrifice my child's bappiness for some superstition of Grandpa's."

The couple also vigorously reject Rabel's "compromise" suggestion of the Hebrew name Menahem, which often is paired with the Yiddish Mendel[eh].

Raya disgustedly says, "Menahem is a name that reeks of old age, a name I associate with unhappy memories and people I have no love for. It's a name for a runty, ugly boy. Let's drop the subject..."

Rahel presses: "Shouldn't we carry on the names of those dead ones, to perpetuate their memory?"

Raya: "I don't want to remember all those awful things the rest of my life. We can't have that memory always haunting our home..."

Rahel, almost to herself: "...Sometimes I think it's not Grandpa who's suffering from amnesia, but we..." (The translation is mine.)

MY GRANDDAUGHTER'S teacher told me the children themselves had chosen that theme and story for presentation at the ceremony. Some of the girls apparently had heard the story and participated in a discussion of it in their Bnei Akiva group.

The teacher also told me one of the mothers had told her that seeing the presentation had convinced her to name the child she was expecting Ya'acov, if it is a boy, after a dead grandfather, rather than give it one of the "Israeli" names so popular even in national-religious circles.

AHARON MEGED is to give the opening, keynote address at the three-day Third International Conference on Jewish Onomastics opening at Bar-Ilan University next Monday morning. His topic will be, "The Name and the Bearer of the Name."

E-mail comments to: moshe@jpost.co.il. Please include mailing address.

Yehonatan Meshorer, numismatic expert at the Israel Museum... The coins were found at the site of the Jewish revolt... The coins were found at the site of the Jewish revolt... The coins were found at the site of the Jewish revolt...



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FEATURES

MORDECHAI
Continued from Page 2

What funds were diverted and to where? And how does it happen that every couple of months the government needs to face decisions that essentially harm security?"

TALKS
Continued from Page 2

He also stressed that if the stalemate continues and the economic plight in the territories increases, "there will be a general eruption which we will not be able to control."

KLEINER
Continued from Page 2

Kleiner called for the thousands of civilian employees of the defense establishment and the 120 MKs to cut their wages by between 1% and 3%.

DOCUMENT
Continued from Page 2

The officials obtained a copy of the document, dated June 26, which Novick was said to have drafted in conjunction with Beilin.

NOTEBOOK
Continued from Page 2

As if he had heard, Sneh commented: "Only a very bad, a very harmful thing, could have brought to one table Peres and Shamir, Beilin and Landau, Shahal and Arens, Chazan and Gafni."

GROUP
Continued from Page 2

Indirectly criticizing Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Shamir said that when he had been prime minister, the entire Likud faction voted against it "except for one [Netanyahu]."

KAHALANI
Continued from Page 9

"I'm not sure we started the war against such criminals early enough," Kahalani said. "I hope that Lerner's arrest will send a message to others."

GRAPEVINE

The accidental tour-guide

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

When she signed up for a group tour to Russia, retired Jerusalem psychologist and social worker Hannah Blumenthal had no inkling that she would become the tour leader.

ITALIAN ambassador Giuseppe Panocchia, television star Michal Yanai, and former top line model Karen Danksy were among the guests at a reception hosted at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv.



Enrico Macias

over the dainty pocketbooks and massive shoulder bags and reached for a soft, almost shapeless tote bag, explaining that she likes to go shopping.

IT'S fortunate that Arad and the Dead Sea are in such close proximity to each other. It meant that some of the top entertainers who

PUBLIC figures are so frequently in the news that one often wonders whether they have private lives at all. As it happens, they do and, moreover, they have a large variety of hobbies and leisure time pursuits.



From left: Michal Yanai, Ahuvia Givoni and Silvano Biagini. (Sivan Farag)

Gitam/BBDO, practices magic. Ted Arison, the wealthiest man in Israel, likes fishing, and Iscar managing director Eitan Wertheimer collects antique cars and breeds horses.

flocked to the Arad Festival either as performers, spectators, or both could enjoy luxury comfort just a short drive away.

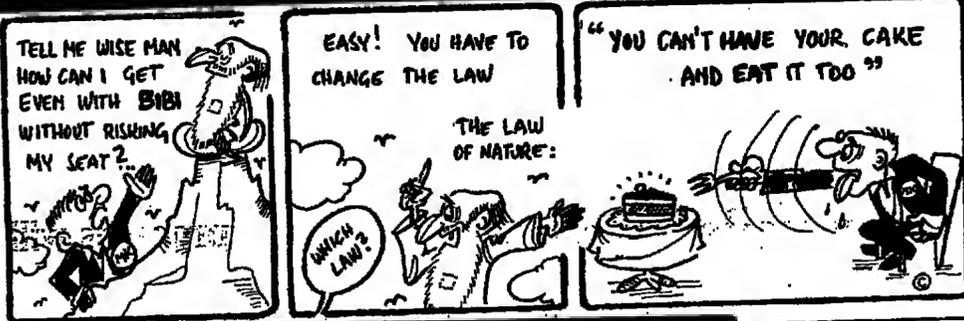
FRENCH Jewish heartthrob Enrico Macias has a new string to his bow. This week, the internationally acclaimed singer was appointed United Nations peace envoy, a position which more or less gives him carte blanche to do one of his favorite things, which is to foster tolerance, understanding, and cultural exchanges.



Liza Minnelli (AP)

visited Israel many times both as a performer and in a personal capacity, is scheduled to come again in early September for a concert at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool.

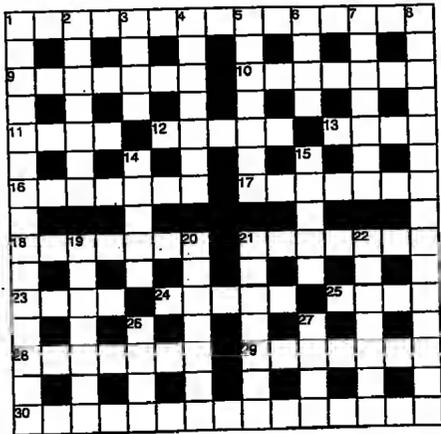
by DOSH



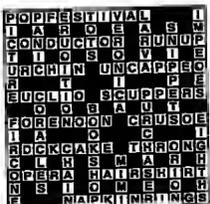
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1 Start to repair damage, having overturned the chessboard? (4,2,3,6)
9 Trapeze artist perhaps is a lively person (7)
10 Such music may involve a lot of strain (7)
11 Record as army volunteers to take exercise (4)
12 Young boulder may be in pocket here (5)
13 Piercing lamentation (4)
16 Pledge to give attention to home (7)
17 Quick answer from letter I posted (7)
18 Elbow-room for Mafia leader in detention? (3-4)
21 Conducts car-trips round the East (7)
23 River hadly described as small brook (4)

- DOWN
24 Collier said this is out very important (6)
25 Double act got the bird in the old days (4)
28 Experience change—urged on (7)
29 Portuguese colony leader is progressive (2-5)
30 The Lord Mayor's Show? (4,11)
1 Had run posthaste, perhaps, to make the collection (4,3,3,5)
2 Ship a cutter? (7)
3 Encourage to take a little courgette (4)
4 Dismiss those attending meeting (4,3)



SOLUTIONS

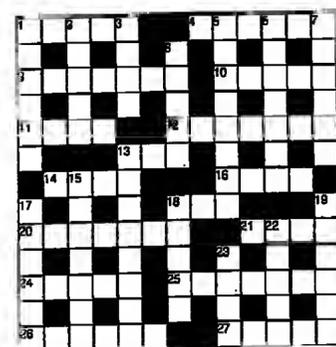


Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Horace, 4 Scope, 8 Sapia, 9 Radical, 10 Anemia, 11 Iris, 12 Kiti, 14 Mean, 15 Riff, 18 Get, 21 Ally, 23 Remorse, 25 Frantic, 26 Overt, 27 Every, 28 Jester.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1 Uncooked bread (5)
4 Nothing (6)
9 Disease (7)
10 Eat away (5)
11 London art gallery (4)
12 Non-professional (7)
13 Distant (3)
14 Rip (4)
16 Playthings (4)
18 Old mayday (3)
20 Considered (7)
21 Stag (4)
24 Pull up (5)
25 Dampen (7)
26 Acts as king (6)
27 Periods of time (5)

- DOWN
1 Petite (6)
2 Without light (5)
3 Part of the foot (4)
5 Flams it up (8)
6 Dry goods shop (7)
7 Not ours (6)
8 Film award (5)
13 Scare (8)
15 Running away to wed (7)
17 Artist with acids (6)
18 Postage charge (6)
19 Traits (6)
22 More (5)
23 Neat (4)



L'expression personnelle



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PARIS



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مكتبة القدس

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, July 25, 1997

Accidental guide

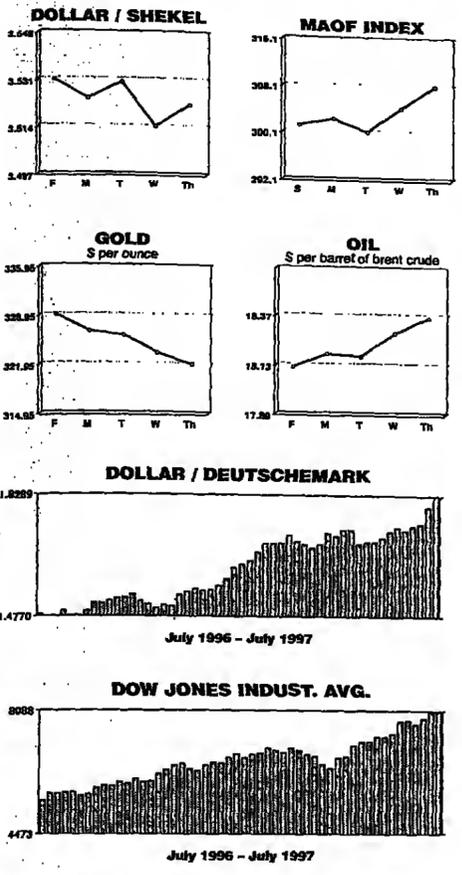
ITALIAN ambassador Gianfranco Fini, who was in Jerusalem for a reception held at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv, Monday, July 21, was the first to be kidnapped by the party, which was led by Yehonatan Ben-Ner. Ben-Ner, a former member of the Kibbutz Movement, was the first to be kidnapped by the party, which was led by Yehonatan Ben-Ner. Ben-Ner, a former member of the Kibbutz Movement, was the first to be kidnapped by the party, which was led by Yehonatan Ben-Ner.



Enrico Macias, a Portuguese singer, was in Jerusalem for a performance at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv, Monday, July 21. He was the first to be kidnapped by the party, which was led by Yehonatan Ben-Ner. Ben-Ner, a former member of the Kibbutz Movement, was the first to be kidnapped by the party, which was led by Yehonatan Ben-Ner.

MARKETS

in brief



RIT raises \$18.4m. in Wall St. IPO
RIT Technologies Ltd., a Tel Aviv-based maker of wiring products and local loop connectivity management systems, raised \$18.4 million this week in an initial public offering on the Nasdaq stock exchange. The company sold 2.3 million shares at \$8 per share. In a registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, RIT said it expected to sell the shares at \$7.5 to \$9.5. The proceeds from the offering will be used for general corporate purposes, including financing the growth of the business. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Crystal announces secondary offering
Crystal Systems Solutions Ltd., announced that the secondary offering of 1.2 million of its ordinary shares was priced at \$27 per share. The company will sell 600,000 shares and shareholders will sell the remaining shares. Crystal Systems Solutions develops and markets a solution for the "Millennium 2000 problem," which threatens to obstruct computer performance when the year switches from 1999 to 2000. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Treasury predicts 7.7% jobless rate by year's end

By DAVID HARRIS

Unemployment will total 7.7 percent of the workforce by the end of this year, and 7.9% by December 1998, according to a Treasury report to be discussed by ministers during the weekly cabinet meeting Sunday. Gross domestic product growth, according to the report, will reach a maximum of 3.5% in 1998, following an expected 2.5% this year. This is the first of three discussions before the government agrees to the 1998 budget proposals on August 31 or September 1. Senior Treasury officials will also tell ministers that they expect an increase in unemployment next year, but improvements in private consumption and exports. For the first time, the Treasury has prepared a macroeconomic document that contains both

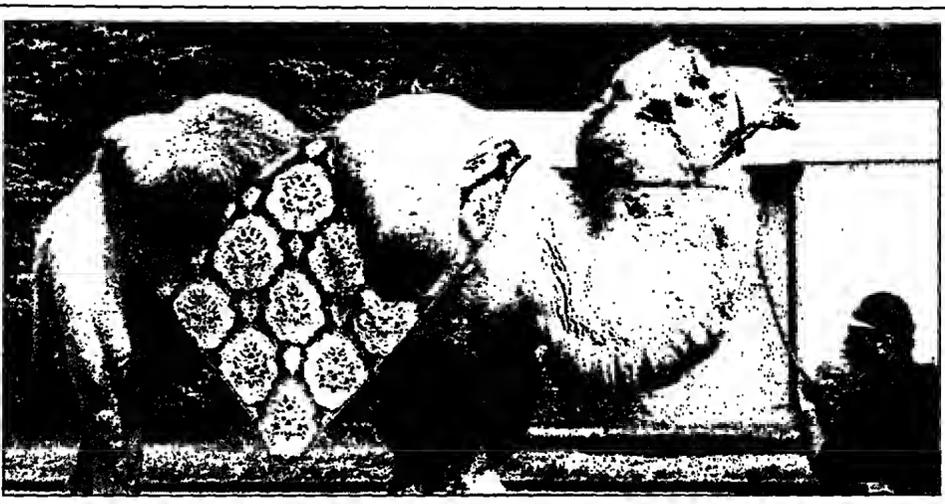
optimistic and pessimistic forecasts pertaining to 1999 and 2000. Among the major predictions:
-Gross domestic product will increase between 3% and 3.5% next year, and 2.9% and 5.4% by 2000.
-Per capita GDP will reach \$16,900 this year and \$17,500 in 1998.
-Growth in imports will be at a rate of 1.8% this year, 4.3% in the coming 12 months and between 3.8% and 5.2% by 2000.
-At the same time exports will show 6.3% growth this year, 7.1% in 1998 and 3.9% to 8.3% thereafter.
-While per capita private consumption will register zero growth this year, the Treasury predicts 0.9% growth in 1998 and 1.1% to 3.3% in the following two years.
-Investments this year will record a decline

of 2.8%, but next year that will be reversed to a 3.2% increase and growth of between 1.7% and 4.4% until 2000. The current account balance of payments will show a \$3.6 billion deficit this year, with a reduction to \$1.5 billion next year and between \$3.9b. and \$1.5b. by 2000. Joblessness will be somewhere between 6.8% and 11.4%. In order to be at the better end of these forecasts - particularly if the government wants to achieve its budget deficit target of 2.4% of GDP next year - the report recommends lowering the tax burden, greater investment in infrastructure, privatization, deregulation and reforms to the capital markets. Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman is today scheduled to discuss the details of the report with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Gov't: Antitrust hitch with Claridge-Koor deal

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Claridge Israel's purchase of a 10 percent stake in Koor Industries Ltd. raises antitrust questions in fields where Claridge and Koor compete, a senior Ministry of Industry and Trade official said yesterday. "There is a definite problem here," the official said. Antitrust Authority director-general David Tadmor will investigate the holding companies' interests to determine areas where Claridge's purchase of a stake in Koor, the country's largest industrial concern, would generate excessive domination in a particular market and thus pose a threat to free competition. So far, Tadmor has indicated two problematic scenarios. One is in sectors where Claridge and Koor are in direct competition. For example, Claridge is a partner in fuel company Paz, while Koor, via its holding in Mashav, has a stake in Sorol, another fuel company. Antitrust law also prohibits companies from having mutual interests in two leading holding companies. Currently, Claridge and Clal, one of Israel's leading business conglomerates, both hold stakes in ECI Telecom, while ECI competes with Tadiran Ltd., a subsidiary of Koor. ECI and Tadiran Telecommunications, a subsidiary of Tadiran, both develop, manufacture and sell telecommunications products. Tadmor is also expected to prohibit Claridge and Clal from joining forces to compete to become Israel's third cellular phone provider, the source at the Ministry of Industry and Trade said.



Russian Ride
A street vendor offers camel rides in downtown Moscow, but business in the capital has been slow as Muscovites are preferring to spend their holidays in rural areas. *(Reuters)*

Microsoft unveils Windows 98

By MYLENE MANGALINDAN

SEATTLE (Bloomberg) - Microsoft Corp. unveiled today the changes slated for the update to its Windows 95 operating system, which brings some of the attributes of World Wide Web navigation to the computer desktop. At a half-day briefing for analysts and the media, executives of the No. 1 personal computer software maker said the update will officially be named Windows 98 and will

be shipped in the first quarter of 1998. The product had originally been scheduled for release late this summer, although analysts expected it to be delayed until December or early 1998. The new operating system, code-named Memphis, is designed to help computer users be more productive, by adding new features to make basic tasks easier and allowing them to integrate graphics, text and information from the Internet into their programs.

"Software isn't always as resilient as we'd like," said Jim Allchin, senior vice president of the personal and business systems group at Microsoft. "We're going to continue to expand in terms of making the [Windows] system simpler, more information-rich and more resilient." Microsoft outlined a Windows strategy called "continuous reinvention," which is designed to help meet businesses and individuals' changing needs by developing improvements and features that simplify basic tasks, allow workgroups to share documents more efficiently and integrate new features with existing applications.

Microsoft's Internet Explorer, even if the user ordinarily uses Netscape products. The company also demonstrated improvements that allow users to monitor activities. When users click on an icon, another screen pops up to show them the contents of the folder so they can view Internet pages, documents and files at the same time. Windows 98 will include Direct X, multimedia improvements that give users more realistic graphics and sharper images when playing video games or running video clips. Microsoft's theme of simplicity extends to its Office product, which is a suite of word processing, spreadsheet and database applications. Users will be able to share comments on common documents that a workgroup is revising. They'll be able to include comments in the document itself or view them as a whole in a separate document. The company also offers ways to sort e-mail so that the most urgent letters or those from specified users rise to the top of the list.

"We are confident Windows 98 will be a better experience than Windows 95," said Paul Maritz, group vice president of the platform and applications group. Microsoft is very bullish on the personal computer industry, he said. More than 100 million units of its 32-bit Windows operating system are currently in use. The company expects those numbers to increase as more businesses replace computer terminals and look to improve their "digital nervous system," or computer network systems.

The Redmond, Washington-based software company demonstrated how its browser, Internet Explorer, will be integrated into the operating system. Computer users can reach their favorite Web sites by clicking on icons or typing in the Web address on their toolbar. They will be able to pull information automatically from Web sites, or channels, that they specified. Integration of the browser with the operating system is targeted at gaining market share from Netscape Communications Corp., the Internet software leader in the browser market with 65 percent to 70 percent market share, analysts have said.

All the shortcuts to the Internet are designed to be routed through

Microsoft's Java programming language and Oracle's networking computer concept. He called Java "largely a joke," saying it doesn't work well on all platforms and isn't as significant a phenomenon as people would like it to be.

Treasury: Privatization proceeds will pay debts

By DAVID HARRIS

"Proceeds from privatization will be used for exchanging assets with assets and they will have to be used as sources that will release other revenues," Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman said yesterday. He was speaking to senior executives and board members of United Mizrahi Bank, who presented the Treasury with a check for NIS 453 million for the purchase of 25 percent of the bank. The Ofer-Wertheim group bought a 26% share of Bank Mizrahi in 1995, valued at some NIS 440 million. Now that it has exercised its option to purchase a further 25%, the group becomes the majority shareholder. Ne'eman said this was an important day for Israel's economy. "This will encourage investors and generate confidence in the government," said Ne'eman. Immediately after Ne'eman's comments, senior ministry officials explained that the proceeds from the sales of state companies will be used to finance debts, but that does not mean the money can be used to reign in the burgeoning budget deficit. The intention is to use the revenues, for example, to pay off government bonds and other loans, where the country is losing money in interest payments, according to the officials.

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German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (23.7.97)					
CURRENCY AND TRANSFERS	BUY		SELL		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.787	3.791	3.42	3.767	
U.S. dollar	3.489	3.501	3.42	3.520	
German mark	1.904	1.902	1.87	1.922	
Pound sterling	5.895	5.897	5.73	5.897	
French franc	0.652	0.574	0.55	0.587	
Japanese yen (100)	3.011	3.085	2.96	3.11	3.044
Dutch florin	1.621	1.714	1.68	1.704	1.704
Swiss franc	2.343	2.382	2.30	2.42	2.383
Swedish krona	0.444	0.451	0.43	0.447	
Norwegian krona	0.453	0.478	0.45	0.487	
Danish krone	0.504	0.508	0.49	0.504	
Finnish mark	0.847	0.876	0.83	0.87	0.850
Canadian dollar	2.325	2.382	2.47	2.500	
Australian dollar	1.833	1.893	1.85	1.917	
S. African rand	0.742	0.778	0.69	0.774	
Belgian franc (10)	0.827	0.876	0.80	0.830	
Austrian schilling (10)	2.708	2.725	2.68	2.728	
Italian lire (1000)	1.998	1.998	1.95	1.977	
Jordanian dinar	4.813	4.932	4.85	5.18	5.018
Egyptian pound	0.990	1.080	0.99	1.094	
ECU	3.727	3.886	3.67	3.830	
Irish punt	5.150	5.243	5.07	5.210	
Spanish peseta (100)	2.282	2.286	2.22	2.278	

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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C PROGRAMMING	Sun. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Sep. 7	Sun. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 7
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NEWS

in brief

Two Holon men indicted for rape

Boaz Harari, 26, and Sharon Dahan, 22, both of Holon, were charged with rape and sodomy by the Beersheba District Court yesterday, in an attack last year on a 16-year-old girl from a southern kibbutz. The two allegedly surprised the girl, who lived in her own apartment on the kibbutz, in the middle of the night, and raped her. The judge is to rule today on a prosecution motion to remand the suspects until the end of proceedings. Ilim

Three more arrested in Jaffa attack

Rahav Rujsba, 33, of Nablus, and Nail Zareb, 33, of Khan Yunis, were remanded for four days each yesterday by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, on suspicion they were involved in the terror attack on British tourists in Jaffa earlier this week. The two are also suspected of trying to harm national security. Police told the court that the two - one of whom has a permit to enter Israel - came in with a third person whose case is being handled separately. The two insist that they do not know the third suspect. Ilim

Police evict Beersheba squatters

A force of some 450 policemen was required yesterday to evict squatters from 12 empty, new apartments they occupied in Beersheba's Neveh Hazerim section. The eviction, carried out with the help of teams of negotiators and social workers, was carried out without force or casualties. Housing Ministry representative Mordechai Kellerman, director of its Negev district, told the squatters the ministry would soon raffle off 25 subsidized apartments in the city, including a NIS 5,000 renovation grant. Ilim

State agrees to quick Pollard hearing

The State Attorney's Office yesterday told the High Court of Justice it had no objection to an expedited hearing into a petition against the government by convicted spy Jonathan Pollard. The state was responding to a request from Pollard's Jerusalem attorney, Larry Dub, who asked that the hearing be speeded up. The court is expected to set the date next week. In his petition, Pollard asked the court to force the government to recognize him as an agent who worked for Israel. He also asked what steps have been taken to obtain his release from incarceration in the US. The petition also requests that the state take care financially of Pollard's family. Batsheva Tsur

Salmonella warning issued

The Health Ministry yesterday called on the public not to eat salmon marketed as "Smoked Fillet Medallion" by Verini in Migdal Ha'Emek that is marked 6/11/97 as the last day of sale. Lab tests showed salmonella bacteria in this product and it can be harmful to health. Judy Siegel

Ministry to fight drug, alcohol abuse

The Education Ministry is formulating a master plan to fight drug and alcohol abuse. Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell said the program is intended to make the issue a major topic of the schools' extracurricular activities. The program will include all children, but special treatment will be given to pupils considered high risk or those who are known to have experimented with or already be using drugs or alcohol. Dell said parents would also play a part in the program. Aryeh Dean Cohen

Five injured in clash over Mt. Meron road

Four policemen and a resident of Beit Jann were injured yesterday in a violent confrontation after police tried to remove a barricade along a disputed road in the Mt. Meron nature reserve. Residents of the Druse village said they had erected the roadblock to prevent Nature Reserve Authority wardens from entering the area and "causing a provocation." Three of the policemen were hurt when stones were hurled at them and another was hit by a tractor. The road runs between Beit Jann and the nearby Druse village of Hurfeish. The High Court of Justice had ordered the road, which was constructed illegally, to be closed. David Rudge

Man murders mother, shoots relatives, then kills himself

Simon Blei, 43, of Bat Yam, shot his mother dead yesterday, wounded three other family members, and then committed suicide. Blei, a married father of two, was apparently angry at his mother for not helping him pay off debts, and was in dispute with his sister over the grocery store the two of them ran and recently closed down. Earlier yesterday, he had been ordered by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court to pay his sister \$9,000 in connection with their dispute. He entered his parents' apartment at about noon, and shot his 65-year-old mother, Maria Blei, killing her. He continued to fire, and lightly wounded his sister, Neria Blei, her ex-husband, Gori Spector, and her 14-year-old son, Itai Spector, in the legs. He then returned to his own home nearby and committed suicide. Mira Levy, Blei's neighbor, said his wife and seven-year-old daughter ran into her apartment screaming when he returned after the shooting. The wife said her husband had thrown her out of the house and locked the door. Minutes later, they heard a shot, and the wife fainted in Levy's apartment. Another neighbor said Blei had been a gentle and sensitive person, and they cannot understand how it happened. (Tum)

'Reduced driving age will cause more deaths'

Lowering the minimum age for a driver's license from 17-and-a-half to 17 will result in an additional 20 deaths on Israeli highways and more in the territories each year, warned Dr. Elihu Richter, a road-safety researcher at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine. Richter's data were sent to Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy in a letter from Dr. Zvi Weinberger, head of the Center for Driver Research and Accident Prevention of the Jerusalem College of Technology. Weinberger said that the idea, which Levy had proposed to give draftees driving experience before they entered the army, is a sure way to increase the number of road-accident victims. Richter based his conclusions on Central Bureau of Statistics data on the number of drivers under 18 killed or injured in road accidents. Richter and Weinberger were among those who fought unsuccessfully against the increase in the speed limit on interurban highways from 90 to 100 kph; their predictions of increased accidents have come true. The two experts said that the surging number of traffic deaths is not a "necessarily evil," but can be reduced to fewer than 200 a year in three years if various measures are taken. They said they will present their program in the near future.

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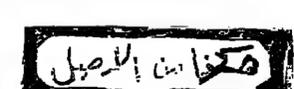
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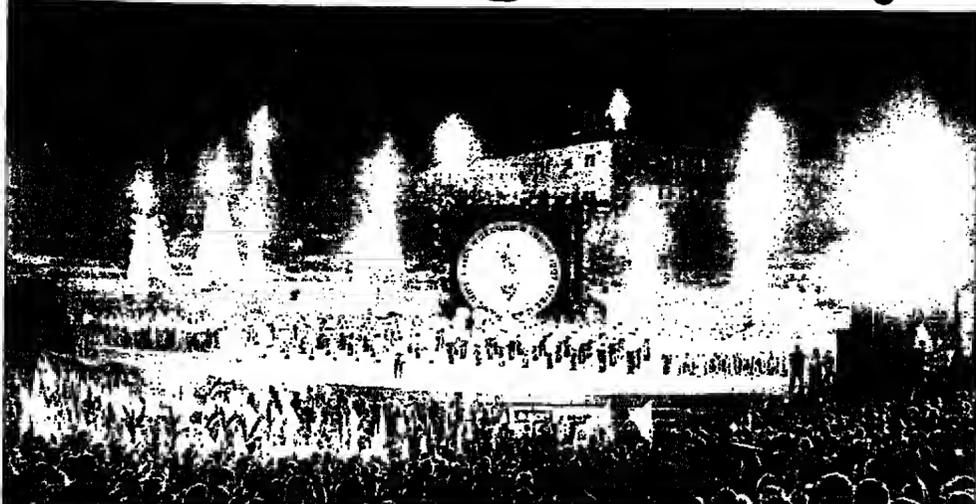
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Reduced driving... cause more deaths... of the High Court... of the High Court... of the High Court... of the High Court...

Bridge tragedy dampens festive Maccabiah closing ceremony

By HEATHER CHAIT

A pallor of sadness hung over the closing ceremony of the 15th Maccabiah last night, a usually festive occasion. With the words, "We will forever remember Greg Small and Yoni Benmen, blessed be their memories, who died tragically during the opening ceremony of the Maccabiah Games," Chairman of the Maccabiah organizing committee Yoram Eyal opened proceedings, setting the tone for a somber and subdued evening.



FAREWELL - The bands play and the delegations watch proceedings at the closing ceremony at Latrun last night. (Brian Hendler)

Seven thousand people packed the historic Armored Corps Memorial at Latrun site to witness a program which portrayed the history of Israel and immigration. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after acknowledging the deaths of Small and Benmen, whom he called, "two friends, devoted to Israel and the unity of the Jewish people," said they represented the spirit and ideals of the Maccabiah.

Referring to the accident as "tragic and senseless," Netanyahu said that "the horror did not stop the games. The tradition of the Maccabiah dictates continuity," he said, "and the tradition of the Jewish people dictates continuity."

Rivlin, Chairman of the JNF, recalled how Benmen had planted a tree two weeks ago in the Ben-Shimon Forest for her daughter as part of the Australian delegation. "We never thought the tree would become a tree of memory," he said poignantly.

The cultural segments of the evening, singing and dancing, were interspersed with videos of children, new immigrants, who spoke of their absorption into the country. Shuli Natan, rendering *Jerusalem of Gold*, had the athletes, smartly dressed in their team uniforms, swaying in rows and waving their arms.

At the end of the evening, the Maccabiah officials took the opportunity once again to return to the tragedy of the opening ceremony. "This Maccabiah has been one of pain, blood and tears," said Uzi Neimel, Chairman of Maccabi World Union, continuing, "in the name of the movement and myself, I want to apologize to all of you for the portion of your dream that has been destroyed."

Taking a more defiant line was Ronald Bakalarz, President of the MWU, who lashed out at the media for their unfounded criticism and condemnation, affirming that the movement "will find the strength to overcome and persevere."

COMMENT Maccabiah defies mediocrity, the Games will go on

By HEATHER CHAIT

For years, the Maccabiah has been slammed for being a motley collection of Jewish athletes, camouflaged behind the title of a sports event. The media and the average Israeli dismissed it as a jamboree, a happening which had known greater relevance in past years.

Even top local athletes like champion windsurfer Amit Inbar had few patriotic qualms when a lucrative competition overseas coincided with the Maccabiah. And then tragedy struck at the 15th Maccabiah, bringing into focus the spirit and courage of the Australian team, and the resilience of all the athletes who chose to continue and compete.

While accusations were being bandied about by everyone and responsibility accepted by no-one, the Games took a one-day hiatus to mourn the victims. When the competition resumed, it was with a defiance and a purpose that life and the Maccabiah must prevail.

Alongside the powerful emotions there were also the absurd aspects of the Games, like the 24-0 mini-soccer score between Israel and Singapore, or the Indian cricket

team's arriving in Israel the same day they were meant to play their first match.

The American basketball players threatened to quit the competition after learning that their perennial rivals, the Israeli team, was in fact the youth team.

Another pesky quirk of the organizing committee was the eleventh-hour switch of the format of the Masters soccer event to accommodate the ootsize Brazilian delegation but which riled teams like the Australians (A\$8,000 poorer for the trip) who hardly played any games.

How did the female windsurfers and 420-class yachtswomen winners feel when they were told, "Sorry, no medals. That's the constitution." Then there was the crowd in Metulla who discovered after watching the ice-hockey "semi-final" between Canada and the Ukraine that it was actually a practice game because the Ukrainian goalkeeper was injured and replaced.

And if numbers talk, then let's be quiet about the women's beach volleyball where Israel's duo landed themselves the silver medal - and the last place.

As expected, the only serious results and records came from the swimming pool, even with its temperatures of 32 degrees

Celsius. Mickey Halika entered the "six-gold-medal club," joining the ranks of the world's best swimmer Mark Spitz and Seth Baron, now the US Maccabiah swim team coach.

One of the more unsettling aspects comes from a brisk glimpse at the Maccabiah staff list which reflects a preponderance of Eyal family members. From Yoram, chairman of the organizing committee, to Zvi, chairman of the media department, the family plot thickens to include Zvi's daughter, Shir, also in the media unit, and to keep her company at work, was her boyfriend, Ronny.

The Kerri Strug interlude should also have been better handled. The 19-year-old UCLA student was presented to the press as liable to take flight if asked the wrong questions. The result? A very articulate Strug gave a short press conference, speaking fluently and competently, before being enveloped by her entourage. Repeated requests for an in-depth interview were politely deflected.

Yet, despite the organizational gremlins and the questionable levels of sport, we should not forget what lies behind these games. Is it the Israeli goalkeeper who stood in

for the Australian team member injured in the bridge accident? Or the crowds who turned out to encourage the shocked and hurting Australian teams? Is it champion swimmer Yoav Bruck who, after winning the 4x100 meter freestyle event, said, "What a great feeling! It's the first time we've beaten the Americans in the Maccabiah." It's all this but much more.

Sebras may view it as merely another source of traffic snarls or a wasted ten minutes nightly on Channel One, while the games may evoke wistful memories for Anglo-Saxon immigrants of Saturday afternoon rugby matches in their native countries, but for the thousands of visitors, the Maccabiah is an emotional high.

The unbridled enthusiasm of the athletes, their pride in being part of the Zionist movement, and their efforts and organization over four years which culminate in the reality of the games, are what give the Maccabiah its intrinsic soul.

The attitude of these visitors and their passion for this country, are the proud spinoff. So when the BBC World Services anchor, interviewing this writer a day after the bridge disaster, questioned whether the games really do have a future, my answer was an emphatic "Yes."

two-week trial with Premiership side West Ham United who will make a final decision on whether to sign the player over the weekend.

The European tour of Alon Mizrahi has continued in Birmingham where the Bnei Yehuda striker yesterday started trials with First Division Birmingham City.

Manager Trevor Francis told the local *Birmingham Post* newspaper that an overseas striker was on trial but adding that he did not know his name or his nationality.

Meanwhile, Betar Jerusalem defender David Amsalem has returned home after completing a

Rabkin holds on to singles gold

By NORMAN SPIRO

Jeff Rabkin retained his Maccabiah singles title when in the deciding match he beat South Africa's Okkie Fine 25-16 - his precision drawing shots making the difference.

The bronze went to another South African, Dannie Keet, who edged out Israel's George Kaminsky on shot difference.

The women's singles gold medal went to South Africa's Merle Frank, who outclassed her out-of-form Israeli opponent, Chaya Prager 25-8. The bronze went to Britain's Marion Green.

The South African men's team of Mackie Glasser, Roy Lampert, Michael Brown and Sydney Epstein won the men's fours when the log

leaders, Australia (Rod Davis) lost their final game to Israel (Raymond Sher).

The Australian team of Rod Davis, David Sebbag, Mike Zusman and Jack Kampel took the silver with Israel's quartet of Sher, Chaim Shefer, Boaz Mareus and Colin Silberstein taking the bronze.

In the women's fours, Molly Skudowitz, Helen Gordon, Carmel Scop and Shirley Kantor won the gold, while compatriots Maureen Hirschowitz, Merle Swerdlow, Isobel Myers and Tzila Gavish earned the silver.

The Australian side of Denese Brick, Jill Diamond, Fay Rubenstein and Pam Morley won the bronze.

The Max Spitz trophy for overall winning team went to Hirschowitz's

quartet, who were one point ahead of Skudowitz's side.

Australia won the men's trophy on their overall performance, heading the log by one point ahead of the Israeli side of Cecil Benksky, Rabkin, Yair Libenthal, Yair Bekier and Amir Yaron.

The Australian players received a prolonged standing ovation for their spirited and determined efforts. With five of their eleven-man squad out of action due to the bridge disaster they were reduced to one team, and nevertheless came through the competition with flying colors.

Their women, with one player short, earned the Australians' first-ever gold medal. The winners presented their medals to the incapacitated team members.

Zohar nears Palace gates

By MARK RIVLIN

LONDON - Israel international midfielder Itzik Zohar continued negotiations yesterday with Crystal Palace with a view to finalizing a move to the Premiership next week. Zohar, who is still on the books of Belgian First Division side Antwerp, had been on loan to Betar Jerusalem during the past season.

Antwerp are reported to be asking \$1 million for the player who is set to earn about \$7,000 a week. Meanwhile, Betar Jerusalem defender David Amsalem has returned home after completing a

two-week trial with Premiership side West Ham United who will make a final decision on whether to sign the player over the weekend.

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Major League Baseball

National League				American League			
East Division	W	L	Pct.	East Division	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	64	38	.227	Baltimore	81	37	.222
Florida	57	42	.276	New York	58	41	.286
New York	57	43	.270	Toronto	47	49	.490
Montreal	52	43	.531	Detroit	47	52	.475
Philadelphia	29	60	.296	Boston	46	54	.460
Central Division				Central Division			
Chicago	63	48	.525	Cleveland	62	42	.553
Houston	49	51	.490	Chicago	50	49	.505
Pittsburgh	49	52	.480	Milwaukee	45	51	.469
St. Louis	48	52	.480	Minnesota	45	53	.459
Cincinnati	43	56	.434	Kansas City	39	56	.411
Chicago	43	58	.426	West Division			
West Division				Seattle	56	44	.560
San Francisco	57	44	.564	Anaheim	54	45	.545
Los Angeles	53	48	.525	Texas	47	52	.475
San Diego	49	52	.485	Oakland	41	61	.402
Colorado	46	55	.455				

Wednesday's NL games: Chicago Cubs 3, Atlanta 1; San Francisco 16, Philadelphia 4; Florida 8, Cincinnati 1; Houston 7, St. Louis 2; NY Mets 2, Los Angeles 1; San Diego 9, Pittsburgh 1.

Wednesday's AL games: Detroit 8, Chicago White Sox 6; NY Yankees 5, Anaheim 4; Kansas City 3, Oakland 3; Boston 2, Toronto 2; Milwaukee 0, Seattle 5; Minnesota 1; Baltimore 3, Texas 2, 12 innings.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

McGrath in late strike for Australia

By ORI LEWIS

LEEDS (Reuters) - Pace bowler Glenn McGrath dismissed Nasser Hussain just before the close to give Australia a slight edge over England on the rain hit first day of the fourth Test yesterday.

England finished on 106 for three after only 36 of the scheduled 90 overs were possible after most of the first two sessions were lost to the rain. Put in to bat after losing the toss for the fourth time in the series, England lost Mark Butcher for 24 and Alec Stewart for seven to be 58 for two. But then Nasser Hussain joined captain Michael Atherton and England looked to be heading for a comfortable close of play score.

McGrath struck in his penultimate over of the day to have Hussain snuffed up at first slip by Mark Taylor for 26. Atherton was unbeaten on 34 at the close and nightwatchman Dean Headley was yet to score.

New soccer season begins with Toto Cup

By ORI LEWIS

The new soccer season effectively gets under way this weekend with the first round of National League Toto Cup matches.

But it will be a very low-key start to the season and there won't even be a full round of matches. Only five of the eight matches scheduled will, in fact, take place. Betar Jerusalem's intriguing home fixture against Hapoel Tel Aviv has been postponed after the league champions were stranded in Sofia last night, unable to board a flight on their way home from Macedonia because of the general strike here yesterday which also affected El Al.

Other matches not taking place are the clash between Maccabi Herzliya and Bnei Yehuda and the match between Hapoel Ashkelon and Hapoel Beit She'an.

Both Herzliya and Beit She'an have failed to receive an okay from IFA budget controller Yair Rabinowitz for the coming season.

The five matches taking place are: (all kickoffs tomorrow at 17:00 unless stated); Maccabi Haifa v. Ironi Rishon LeZion, Kiryat Eliezer 19:00; Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Bloomfield 15:00; Hapoel Beersheba v. Hapoel Haifa, Beersheba; Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Ironi Ashdod, Bloomfield today 17:00; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Teddy Stadium today 16:30.

SPORTS in brief

Israel youth lose 3-0 to Swiss in Iceland

Israel's youth (under-18) soccer side lost their opening match 3-0 to Switzerland in the European Championship finals in Akranes, near the Icelandic capital, Reykjavik, last night. The Israelis, who are representing their country at the highest level of continental competition, held on bravely in cool conditions in the first half, but they collapsed in the second period when the Swiss managed to finally break the deadlock. Rainer Baile struck first in the 52nd minute, nine minutes later Oliver Kaiser added a second goal through an Israeli defensive error and in the 75th minute Dennis Mendi sealed the scoreline when the Swiss again managed to beat the Israeli back line. Israel's next match in the eight-team competition is against France tomorrow. On Monday they play Ireland. Ori Lewis

Rous wins stage after 75-km solo breakaway

MONTBELLIARD, France (Reuters) - Frenchman Didier Rous broke away 75 kilometers from the finish to win the 18th stage of the Tour de France yesterday. Rous came in just over five minutes ahead of compatriot Pascal Hervé and American Bobby Julich, who were second and third in the 175.5-km stage from Colmar. Jan Ullrich of Germany retained the overall leader's yellow jersey.

Brighton win vote to stay in English league

LONDON (Reuters) - Brighton retained their English Football League status yesterday after a ballot at an extraordinary general meeting of clubs. "Brighton have not been expelled," a League spokeswoman said. Seventeen of the 72 clubs had voted to expel the third division club, but 47 opposed the move. Eight clubs abstained. Brighton had faced exclusion from the League after 77 years as members by failing to pay a £500,000 (\$837,000) bond to guarantee their continued presence next season. They saved their place in the third division last season by drawing at Hereford on the last day of the season. Hereford were relegated on goal difference. Brighton are sharing a ground with Gillingham after leaving their Goldstone ground last season.

Newcastle pair set to leave

LONDON (Reuters) - Newcastle's former England international striker Peter Beardsley is set to join premier league rivals Bolton while team mate Les Ferdinand is also tipped to leave the club. The Newcastle Clubcal service said 36-year-old Beardsley was set to join Bolton for £500,000 in the next few days and was having talks with Bolton manager Colin Todd yesterday. The Sun newspaper reported that England international Ferdinand had been put on the club's transfer list for £6 million. There was no official comment from Newcastle. The Sun reported that the London-born player wanted to join Tottenham, who are managed by his former Queens Park Rangers boss Gerry Francis. Everton have also expressed an interest.

Ronaldo set for Internazionale debut

MILAN (Reuters) - Brazil striker Ronaldo is set to make his debut for Internazionale Milan at the weekend, before disagreements over his transfer from Barcelona are resolved. Inter said yesterday that world footballer of the year Ronaldo would make his first appearance for the Italian club in a friendly against English premier league champions Manchester United on Sunday. The 20-year-old striker is expected to arrive in Milan today from Brazil. Inter president Massimo Moratti said he would travel to Zurich next week to meet Barcelona chiefs ahead of the July 31 deadline set by FIFA for the two clubs to reach an accord over Ronaldo.

Bulls announce re-signing of coach Phil Jackson

CHICAGO (Reuters) - The reigning NBA champion Chicago Bulls announced Wednesday that head coach Phil Jackson re-signed with the team for the 1997-98 season, apparently ensuring that superstar Michael Jordan will return for one more year and a run at a sixth title. "Phil told me he wanted to come back for one last year and try to defend our world championship," team chairman Jerry Reinsdorf said in a statement.

"It has always been our intention to bring back Phil for that last season and then turn our attention to building for the future." Reinsdorf said the one-year pact made Jackson the highest-paid "pure" coach in the league, which excluded coaches who also act as

their teams' general managers such as the Miami Heat's Pat Riley. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed but television reports said the deal was worth up to \$6 million. Signing Jackson, the Bulls' coach in all five of their championships in the past seven years, was a prerequisite to luring back Jordan, who had said he would retire rather than play for another coach. The Bulls have won titles in Jordan's last five full seasons, falling short only in the two in which he took time off for his minor-league baseball experiment. Jordan made \$30.1 million last season and an unconfirmed speculation has him asking for anywhere from \$36 million to \$40 million for the 1997-98 season.

England to pour £9 million into 2006 World Cup bid

LONDON (AP) - England, locked in a fierce competition with Germany, plans to spend a record £9 million on its bid for the 2006 World Cup. The Times reported Thursday that the British government is offering full backing for the bid to bring soccer's showpiece to England for the first time since 1966.

The paper said the Football Association has already committed £3 million and the figure is expected to be matched with £3 million from the FA Premier League and a further £3 million from lottery funding. The government does not have direct control over lottery funding, which is currently in the hands of the English Sports Council. But the Times said the government wants lottery money spent on the bid and government lawyers are examining whether it can control the funds directly.

The £9 million would be the highest amount ever spent in trying to bring an international sports event to this country. It would exceed by more than £4 million the figure spent by Manchester on its unsuccessful bid for the 2000 Olympics. Alec McGivan, director of the World Cup bid, said the FA was already discussing support from companies such as British Airways.

"However, we will not let it get out of hand as the Japanese and South Koreans did," he said, referring to the bitter campaign waged between the two Asian rivals before they were selected to co-host the 2002 World Cup. McGivan said the government could play a significant role by giving leadership to the bid and providing hospitality and diplomatic support. "The new government is extremely enthusiastic about our candidature," he said. "Both (Prime Minister) Tony Blair and (Sports Minister) Tony Banks are football followers. What we must do is to make the bid unique, to make it something to excite people."

Soccer's European governing body, UEFA, initially endorsed Germany's bid as the sole candidacy from Europe. That upset the English, who insisted they should be allowed to go forward with their bid. The Germans have accused the English of going back on a gentleman's agreement to support the German bid. Bids are also expected from Africa and South America. FIFA, soccer's world governing body, will decide on the venue in June 2000.

